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Palestinian held on suspicion of spying for Iran

ON LEVY

A PALESTINIAN academic has been arrested on suspicion he spied for Iran by collecting information on security installations, the General Security Service announced yesterday.

Mohammed Rafiq Salameh Mohammed, 44, of Beit Jalla, who has a doctorate in philosophy, told GSS investigators that he had been drafted into service by Iranian intelligence about a year ago by a staffer at the Iranian Embassy in Jordan. Mohammed had lived in Lebanon and Syria in the past, and had recently spent time in Jordan.

Mohammed was arrested in the home of relatives in Bethlehem in November, before the IDF withdrew from the city. He had arrived from Jordan in October to visit family.

"Iran, Syria, and other Arab countries have been making a great effort to obtain intelligence information on Israel, and the Iranian effort has been intensified recently," a senior security source said yesterday. "A few months ago we exposed Herzl Rad, who is also suspected of spying for Iran. The exposure of these agents constitutes a success."

Before being arrested, Mohammed succeeded in passing to his handlers various maps on which important security installations and government offices were marked.

Mohammed was also asked to photograph various sensitive locations. He was given a camera by his handlers and money to buy film and other photographic equipment. He managed to take a number of photographs, but (Continued on Page 2)



Prime Ministers Shimon Peres and John Major meet on the doorstep of No. 10 Downing Street before their talks yesterday. (Reuters)

Peres: Announcement on elections this month

DOUGLAS DAVIS LONDON

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres took another step toward early elections yesterday, when he twice declared he would make an announcement on the subject before the end of the month.

(Meanwhile, in Israel, Channel 2 reported last night that Peres and senior Labor Party members have already decided to advance the elections to May 15. Party secretary-general Nissim Zivli confirmed that this was the date preferred by the party.)

In remarks to journalists during his flight to London and again at an informal press conference after a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister John Major, Peres said an announcement would be made by the end of the month.

However, he insisted the decision would not be linked to negotiations with Syria or be influenced by the state of the current round of talks.

Peres told a packed meeting of both houses of Parliament yesterday evening that "we have to renew our mandate," and said that if he were faced with the choice of making peace or winning the election, he would choose peace.

He sounded an upbeat note on the current talks with Syria, saying negotiations have been "much

better than we imagined, but much slower than we hoped."

He singled out three areas in which progress had been made — the nature of the negotiations, the role of economic elements in a future accord, and issues related to normalization.

However, he concluded that no agreement had been reached on several "serious problems," including water, borders, and security issues.

He noted that Syrian President Hafez Assad has "shown some flexibility, which we appreciate," and that not all of the blame for the slow pace of the negotiations rested with Damascus.

Peres also spoke of the "nightmare" he feared as a result of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, terrorism, and an Islamic fundamentalist movement "that is seeking to take over the Arab world."

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat informed Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan that he has selected April 12 as the date when the Palestinian National Council will begin discussions on annulling sections of its covenant calling for the destruction of Israel.

Local large-scale drug gang caught

RAINE MARCUS

THREE Israelis have been arrested for allegedly running the biggest drug smuggling and money laundering ring ever caught here, police disclosed yesterday.

Police suspect that billions of dollars in profits of massive drug smuggling operations — in which tons of marijuana, hashish, and cocaine were smuggled from Colombia to Europe — were laundered here. However, Tel Aviv detective squad head Asst. Cmdr. Dudi Cohen said that "not one gram [of the drugs] entered Israel."

The case was made public after a six-week publication ban and nearly a year of intensive work by Tel Aviv detectives, Interpol,

Dutch, and European police.

Police said Romi Mann, Eyal Friedman and his late father, Aharon (who died several years ago), and Shlomi Levy managed a highly organized drug smuggling ring from 1979 to 1993. Friedman and his father, the owner of a shipping company, allegedly used their ships to smuggle tons of cocaine and marijuana around the world.

Friedman, 37, of Tel Aviv, was arrested yesterday and remanded by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for nine days. Holon residents Levy, 31, and Mann, 50, are expected to appear before a judge this morning to have their re-

mands extended.

Several years ago, Mann was the manager of Hapoel Holon basketball team, and until two years ago lived in the US.

In 1993, Dutch police launched a massive undercover investigation into smuggling of tons of hashish, cocaine, and marijuana through Holland to the rest of Western Europe.

Mann's name repeatedly arose during the investigation, and Cohen's squad, which has solved several international drug smuggling cases, began to act.

He was arrested at the end of December when he returned from abroad after allegedly concluding a massive drug deal, just one of 15, police said.

Ouman workers reopen plant with Histadrut help

MICHAL YUDELMAN

WORKERS at the Ouman Knitting Mills in Ofakim reopened the plant yesterday and resumed work, with the Histadrut's backing and over management's protests.

Polgat, Ouman's owner, complained to police about the workers breaking into the plant, which has been closed for five weeks. It said it would hold the Histadrut with fully responsible for any damages.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz met with the workers and told them to "enter the plant, assume their respective work posts, and start producing." He said this is the first time in the country's history that workers are operating a plant by themselves.

The workers, some of whom had only heard of the reopening on the morning news, arrived and energetically began cleaning the plant, before starting their knitting machines.

Two guards came on duty and were astonished to find the plant fully operating. They were advised by Peretz not to take on 150 workers, and refrained from intervening.

After Ouman's closure, new orders for more than 200,000 sweaters from Israel and abroad were collected, with workers saying they now have enough work for six months. Peretz said the Histadrut would finance all the plant's expenses and also pay the workers' wages from its strike fund.

"If the management thinks we're trespassing and might cause damage to the machines — because machines are all they care about — we're ready to sit down with them tomorrow morning and buy the machines from them, until we find an investor to purchase them

from us," Peretz said.

Ouman union head Yitzhak Gozlan said the new orders were obtained on the basis of Ouman's management's promise to reopen the plant and operate it for six more months.

"We were forced to reopen the plant today by ourselves, because the management left us no other choice," Gozlan said.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper sharply denounced the Histadrut's support of the workers' break-in, saying such strong-arm tactics "are in violation of the law and not in keeping with the atmosphere of negotiations and the agreements between the Histadrut and the employers."

Propper called on Peretz to return to the bargaining table, reminding him that next week the Beersheba Labor Court is to hear the issue of the workers' severance pay.

Syrians agree to broad definition of normalization

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SYRIA and Israel hammered out detailed written understandings in Maryland yesterday, in which Damascus conceptually accepts Israel's broader definition of normalized ties, including the establishment of embassies, according to Israeli sources close to the negotiations, which were slated to adjourn last night.

The two sides also agreed to a set of economic principles and to regional cooperation pending a peace treaty, including the establishment of an international consortium for aid to Syria, similar to the donors' body that currently helps the Palestinians, the sources said.

Despite the progress, both US and Israeli officials repeatedly warned that a breakthrough is not likely soon, and that expectations should be held in check. The two sides did not discuss the extent of a Golan Heights withdrawal, according to Israeli sources, and made little if any headway on Golan-related security arrangements and water.

A source insisted the agreement is not merely procedural in character — a willingness to talk about talks — but constitutes a "Syrian willingness to define normalization as we do — embassies, open borders, tourism, and trade."

At the same time, Syria has made it clear that it will not normalize ties nor sign a peace treaty until Israel agrees to fully withdraw from the Golan.

Speaking en route to London, Prime Minister Shimon Peres termed the current round of talks as "most useful," and confirmed that the two sides have formulated understandings relating to normalization and economics, Israel Radio reported.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk told Channel 1's Moked interview program that Syria has moved toward Israel's position that normalization should include embassies, open borders, and tourism.

Minister Yossi Beilin said that Syria has also accepted the principle that a peace between the two

countries should involve other Arab states.

But both Beilin and Indyk warned that there should be no expectation of breakthrough.

Speaking from Paris, Beilin said the current pace of talks would be promising if the government were at the start of its term, not near the end. "If we were in 1992 or 1993, I would be optimistic that we could reach an agreement in this term, but now we are at the end of the term," he said.

During a talk at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Institute, Indyk said: "We should not expect that somehow a breakthrough is to be expected, particularly when the secretary of state [Warren Christopher] arrives next week."

"To expect somehow that there will be an agreement now or some kind of major breakthrough is not serious. These are serious negotiations and very serious issues are being discussed. They are not amenable to quick-fix solutions."

Indyk divulged that, a week before his assassination, Yitzhak Rabin agreed to a US request to introduce its own proposals for (Continued on Page 2)

'Early elections will depend on Assad'

SARAH HONIG

Syrians.

Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli denied that Peres had already decided to advance the elections, saying the decision would only be made in mid-February and that a whole host of considerations are involved aside from the state of contacts with Damascus.

On his way to London, Peres himself said that he will be deciding whether to advance the elections in "a few weeks," and that his decision would not be affected by the talks with Syria.

These talks, he maintained, will go on whether early elections are called or not, and they will be continued after the elections as well, though he expects that a campaign would slow down progress. The decision on elections, Peres said, would also hinge on the state of labor relations and on the need to avoid excessive wage demands and industrial unrest.

Since such phenomena are characteristic of pre-election periods, these comments are seen as possibly hinting as to how Peres might explain to the public a decision to advance the elections.

If Peres does decide to move up the elections, the haggling between the parties on the precise

date would begin. Legislation to dissolve the Knesset must be passed by the end of this month so the cumbersome bureaucratic machinery can gear up for May or June balloting.

Tsomet is eagerly supporting the prospect of an early vote. Meretz said it would agree to early elections if Labor presses for them, but would prefer them held as initially scheduled. The religious parties and the Arabs are against early elections.

The Likud, as the chief opposition party, cannot say that it opposes advancing election day, though it fears an early poll, believing Labor's prospects would still be buoyed by the sympathy generated by Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

But since the consensus in the Likud is that early elections are unavoidable, most want to get the battle started as soon as possible. Hence the push to have party's primaries advanced from March 26 to the end of the month, so as to end the internal tension faster and begin the campaign. MK Limor Livnat has begun circulating a petition among central committee members in advance the primaries.

In Labor, 196 candidates resist (Continued on Page 2)

Wednesday, Jan...
Tel Aviv 18:20
Jerusalem 18:17
Eilat 18:20
Party close than usual.
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1995 rec for tour
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Nautilus laser to be tested today

STEVE RODAN

THE US and Israel are today scheduled to test whether a high-energy laser beam can shoot down a Katyusha rocket. The joint project could provide both countries with an answer to the threat of short-range rockets, US defense sources said.

The program is called Nautilus, and US defense sources said it has been quickly proceeding for the last several years. Over the last year, the US and Israel have been conducting lethality tests against a number of rockets, mortars, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The scheduled test comes after several delays. In December, a Nautilus attempt to destroy a Katyusha was derailed when the beam facility was flooded with water. Another test, scheduled for Tuesday, was also postponed when a problem developed with an infrared sensor.

Pentagon officials said the testing is being conducted in New Mexico.

Several companies are working on the project, including IAI, Rafael, Teledyne, and the US company, TRW, US sources said.

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Bill putting off direct election of PM delayed

THE four MKs from different parties who want to postpone the implementation of the law on direct elections of the prime minister until 2000 yesterday agreed to delay their bills to allow the 78 MKs who have expressed the opposition to the direct elections to come out into the open.

The bills - by Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Uzi Landan (Likud), Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party), and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) - were to have been introduced in the plenum yesterday. The Labor faction had ordered its MKs to vote against delaying the implementation; the Likud was allowing its members to vote as they wish.

The discussion was postponed after a meeting between the four

LIAT COLLINS

MKS and Speaker Shevah Weiss, who agreed to allow them time to let their colleagues sign a petition against the direct election system, rather than just expressing verbal opposition.

Bibi explained the postponement by saying the law affected the very essence of a democratic regime and the party and public establishments have not yet fully discussed it.

Chazan said direct elections would be postponed if MKs were to vote according to conscience and common sense.

Landan said when the direct election law passed in the last Knesset, it was "opium for the masses." He said the MKs who

proposed the direct elections then acted in good faith, but many MKs gave in to populism in supporting it.

"The law passed with a normal majority, but in a dark atmosphere and as a result of pressure. It was a mistake and it should be rejected today," said Gafni.

It is not clear when the discussion will be raised again, and it could depend on whether or not the government decides to call for early elections. If the elections are brought forward, direct election opponents will try to pass their bill. If the elections remain scheduled for October, the MKs will possibly raise their bill only after the primaries, when Labor MKs can vote more freely.



A woman leaves a voting booth yesterday, moments after making her choice in the Jabalya camp in the Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

New orders on security checks

ON LEVY

SOLDIERS have been ordered to make physical checks on Palestinians passing through the gates of Palestinian-Israeli liaison offices, in addition to using metal detectors.

The move comes after St. Sgt. Ehud Tal was stabbed to death in the Dotan army camp Tuesday, when a Palestinian was allowed to enter after a metal detector failed to detect he was carrying two knives.

Senior military sources said yesterday that reserve soldiers have complained in the past that the detector was faulty, and the complaint was investigated.

The investigation into the Dotan base incident continued, and the company that produced the detector was also examining the device's failure.

Maj. Gen. Oren Shohar, the government coordinator in the territories, ordered all soldiers to use the old system of physical checks and hand-held metal detectors on all Palestinians entering military installations.

In addition, a more stringent check will be made of the identification papers of those entering the sites.

Metal-detectors have been in use for a number of years at government offices and at airports here and abroad. The civil administration used them to ease the checking of large numbers of people and to avoid making physical searches of women.

Beilin: Time running out for pact with Syria

PARIS (Reuters) - Time is running out for a peace agreement between Israel and Syria, Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday.

"As we don't have too much time, the question now is whether it is possible to make this in 1996. I'm not sure," Beilin told reporters after meeting French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

A new round of talks between Israel and Syria opened on Tues-

day near Washington, and Israeli officials have previously cautioned that they do not expect any sudden breakthroughs.

Beilin said it was important that an agreement be reached in 1996 because of upcoming elections in Israel and the United States.

"I think that what we have in front of us is several weeks, or perhaps very few months, and

then we have to move," he said.

He blamed the lack of progress on what he called Syrian opposition to compromises on the major issues of security arrangements, water and borders.

The talks have been bogged down over the extent and speed of withdrawal from the Golan, security arrangements to guarantee the new border and the nature of future ties.

Gazans vote again at two polling stations

JABALYA (AP) - Guarded by policemen with assault rifles, Palestinians cast fresh votes in this refugee camp yesterday.

Election officials had found evidence of cheating during the January 20 general elections for a Palestinian council.

The revote at two polling stations in Jabalya added to the atmosphere of confusion and suspicion that has clouded the elections.

Complaints about irregularities in several voting districts have

held up announcement of the final results.

Dozens of candidates lodged complaints with the central election commission.

Irregularities included missing ballot boxes, manipulation of illiterate voters, and denial of access to vote counting.

Election official Riad Khodari said that final results would only be announced after vote counts have been reviewed in all 16 election districts and all complaints have been investigated.

He said the results should be ready before Id al-Fitr, the three-day holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

According to preliminary figures, Yasser Arafat won 88.2 percent of the vote.

Members of Arafat's Fatah faction won about 50 council seats.

During the revote, some 300 policemen guarded the two schools where 2,320 registered voters were expected to take part in the balloting. Polls opened shortly after 7 a.m.

Voters waited patiently in line and many said they did not mind the long wait.

"If that's what it takes to have a government, I would do it every day," said housewife Fatima Abu Julhum.

The new vote at polling station No. 76 was ordered because no observers were present during the original vote count.

At station No. 39, a scuffle between supporters of rival candidates had obstructed the process, Khodari said.

Palestinian Police returns 73 stolen cars; two PA policemen caught driving in another

BILL HUTMAN

TWO Palestinian policemen were caught in a stolen car near Ramallah yesterday, the same day the Palestinian Police in Hebron returned to Israel 73 stolen cars located in areas under their authority.

Israel Police say the two events reflect the "ups and downs" of relations with the Palestinian Police. Overall, relations are good, but there are exceptions, according to Israel Police.

The two Palestinian policemen were stopped at a checkpoint, and then taken in for questioning after it was discovered the car they were driving had been stolen from Petah Tikva.

At the District Commanding Office in Hebron, 73 stolen vehicles were returned by the Palestinian Police.

It was the largest number of cars returned in a single day, an Israel Police spokesman said.

The spokesman said that since the Palestinian Police had taken over security in the major cities in the territories they have cracked down on the stolen car trade, in many instances in direct cooperation with Israel Police.

Shahal: Government not talking about Jerusalem

THE government is not conducting any negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Shahal spoke on the subject twice, answering a parliamentary question by Yehoshua Matza (Likud), and five motions to the agenda by MKs from various parties.

Shahal said he had asked Prime Minister Shimon Peres about the issue before Peres left for Britain yesterday morning "and received a negative answer."

Matza heckled Shahal, accusing him of giving a false response, misleading the public and avoiding the truth. Matza repeatedly asked Shahal to clarify whether any negotiations at all are being carried out in Europe on Jerusalem's status, since Shahal's answers were confined to stressing that the government is not negotiating on the subject.

Matza charged that negotiations are being carried out by academics, as they were when the

groundwork was laid for the Oslo accords. He based his claim on press reports and statements by Palestinian officials Faisal Husseini and Ziad Abu Zayyad.

Shahal said even raising doubts about Jerusalem's future invites pressure on Israel.

"Neither Faisal Husseini nor Ziad Abu Zayyad has the power to say that negotiations are being conducted, when it is officially stated from the Knesset plenum that the government is not conducting any negotiations," Shahal said.

Right-wing group seeks religious candidate for PM

A GROUP of religious, right-wing activists is working to put up a religious candidate for prime minister in the coming elections, saying that only such a candidate can provide a "real right-wing alternative" to Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"Shimon Peres is right when he asks what alternative the right presents to the public," said Motti Karpel, of the Chai Ve-kayam movement, who is leading the action committee collecting signatures to back such a candidate.

"There cannot be a right wing if its candidates do not have any Torah orientation," he continued.

"[Binyamin] Netanyahu and the Likud in essence represent a similar version of Labor. The Likud has no answer to the Oslo process. And on the other hand, the authentic right - which includes the haredi community - has no real expression."

Karpel would not reveal who was being considered as a candidate, but did not rule out running a veteran religious politician, such as Zevulun Hammer.

Karpel admitted that a religious candidate had no chance of actually winning the election.

But he said there were good tactical reasons for such a candidate to run, not the least being that "there is no reason that Netanyahu should get the votes of the right for free." (Iim)

ASSAD

(Continued from Page 1)

tered for the primaries. Of them, 56 will be running in a national primary, with the rest in the less prestigious regional contests. A quarter of the candidates are reported to be women.

Peres has already secured the first slot, and Zivili will be placed in the reserved seventh slot.

In announcing his decision not to run, Tzur said, "The time has come to realize that I have filled all the high offices that I ever will. One must know when to step down. Without Rabin, I don't think there is any point for me to continue." Tzur was appointed a minister by Rabin in 1992 even though he did not win a Knesset seat.

MK Avi Yehezkel will run even though he is accused of involvement in the Histadrut corruption scandal. MK Gedalya Gal will also run, even though he had said earlier that he would not do so. He said friends convinced him to change his mind.

Other MKs who did not register for the primaries are Shlomo Buhbut, Avraham Katz-Oz, and Hana Haded.

New faces in the Labor race are Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami and former police inspector-general Ya'acov Terner. Singer Nissim Garama is also trying his luck, as is Ethiopian immigrant activist Adissu Messala.

Ayalon to take GSS helm February 18

ON LEVY

FORMER OC Navy Ami Ayalon is to assume the post of General Security Service head on February 18, sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, two navy reservists have petitioned the High Court of Justice against Ayalon's appointment, demanding an investigation into an incident that occurred in the navy two years ago. No details about the incident were given.

Senior army sources said that the petition was a nuisance petition, because the incident was investigated when it occurred, and the judge-advocate general had decided there was no substance to the complaint.

Yesterday, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee bid Gillon farewell.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- New weapons to be displayed in Singapore**
A new, highly accurate 160mm rocket system developed by Israel Aircraft Industries will be displayed for the first time at next week's Singapore Air Show.
- Also to be displayed are a third-generation laser-guided bomb, a new pilotless, reconnaissance plane, and a new type of armor to protect light vehicles from small arms fire. (On Levy)
- Man offers friend NIS 10,000 to kill wife**
An Ashdod man who allegedly offered a friend NIS 10,000 to kill his wife was arrested yesterday. The wife and the friend showed up at the local police station and reported the offer.
- According to the wife, her husband has long suspected her of cheating on him.
- The friend said he was told by the husband: "If you kill her, you'll get the money. I don't care how you do it. Run her over." (Iim)
- Source of 'Shalom, haver' revealed**
The mystery of who suggested to US President Bill Clinton that he use the phrase "Shalom, haver" in his eulogy for Yitzhak Rabin has been solved. According to US Ambassador Martin Indyk, who was speaking at Bar-Ilan University yesterday, the suggestion came from Evelyn Leibovitz, an assistant to the White House press secretary. (Iim)
- Some fuel prices drop**
Fuel prices were updated at midnight last night, with the major change being significant decreases in the prices of diesel fuel for transport, down 12.6%, and heating fuel, reduced by 13.1%. Light industrial oil dropped by 10.3% and heavy oil for generating electricity was reduced by 9%.
- There was no change in 96 octane or unleaded gas. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

SPYING

(Continued from Page 1)

was arrested before he was able to pass them on.

Former deputy GSS head Gideon Ezra said he did not believe Mohammed had succeeded in endangering national security.

He added, however, that "Iranian interest in what's happening in Israel should worry us, because [of its possible role on Israel's] eastern front. We must not be complacent."

Ezra praised the GSS for the arrest. "We are not talking about a network here, but a single individual, and to catch an individual is much harder," he said.

SYRIA

(Continued from Page 1)

Golan-related security arrangements. Rabin had previously opposed the US introducing "bridging" proposals at the negotiating table.

The proposals would be defined in diplomatic jargon as a "non-paper," apparently so as not to constitute official US government policy on the sensitive issues.

Indyk said he expects the US will offer its "non-paper" on security arrangements when the moment is right.

He said that before the paper would be submitted to the negotiators, there would be prior consultation with both Israel and Syria. "Our policy is to work with Israel and not against it," he said.

The significance of a US proposal on security arrangements is that it could shift the center of gravity of the negotiations.

Now both Israel and Syria will likely seek to persuade the US to accept their security positions, instead of seeking to convince each other. Clearly, a US proposal would constitute a new baseline, as Israel does not expect Damascus to accept positions that are not acceptable to Washington.

To mark the end of the shloshim for

URI EPHRAIM PEARLMAN 71
the unveiling of the tombstone will be held on Monday, February 5, 1996 (Tu B'Shvat 5756), at 3:00 p.m., at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem

The family

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our dear and devoted friend and benefactor

MRS. IRENE BALINT ת"ר
London-Jerusalem

Who passed away in London on January 31, 1996
Wife of our noble benefactor
Mr. George Balint ז"ל
and founder of the
GEORGE AND IRENE BALINT PAVILION
MOTHER AND BABY CONVALESCENT HOME AND
MEDICAL CENTER
Jerusalem, Israel

The funeral procession will leave today, Thursday, February 1, 1996 from Yeshivat Netivot Olam, Rehov Hashomer, corner Rehov Hashlosha, Bnei Brak, at 11:30 sharp, to the Shomrei Shabbat (Halperin) Cemetery, Zichron Meir, Bnei Brak.

Board of Directors, Ladies Auxiliary and Staff
Mother and Baby Convalescent Home and Medical Center
Bayit Lepletot - Girls Town Jerusalem Orphanage

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Shaare Zedek Medical Center Jerusalem

Extends sincerest condolences to
Mr. George Balint
on the passing of his beloved wife

IRENE BALINT ת"ר
in London on January 31, 10 Shvat 5756

The funeral will take place today, Thursday February 1, 1996, in Bnei Brak at the Shomrei Shabbat cemetery, Zichron Meir. Leaving from Yeshivat Netivot Olam, Rehov Hashomer, corner Hashlosha, at 11:30am.
For further information, please call 02-6555497
Shiva at Dan Tel Aviv Hotel

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מזכרת תפילין

Unit that probes police said too lenient

THE Justice Ministry's Police Investigation Department requires far more evidence to act against a policeman suspected of wrongdoing than the police require to prosecute a regular citizen. This was one of the many problems with the department raised in a meeting of the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.

Kobi Kammer, representing the Bar Association, said the department demanded more evidence because of the friendly relationships between many serving policemen and the former policemen who work there.

The subject was raised by Shlomo Benizri (Shas), who related to the disturbances along

Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan. "Among the demonstrators there are admitted some 'wild weeds,' but there are also 'wild weeds' among the police and they must be brought to justice," he said.

He said the department worked on the policy of "a friend investigates a friend" which hinders investigations. Benizri presented evidence of police brutality and said he had televised documentary footage of more cases. "But no steps have been taken against the policemen. The department is not fulfilling its function," he said. The department was also

accused of footdragging by Eli Kaufman, a member of a group called Mannit. "Out of the scores of founded complaints, only two policemen have been punished. One received a warning and the other a fine of NIS 150," he said.

Rabbi Nahum Weissfisch, from a group called Ma'aleh, came equipped with a cassette showing police violence, including footage of policemen who had been cleared by the department. For lack of time, the screening was postponed to a future meeting.

Jerusalem Police Chief Aryeh Amit said the department took a hard line against police-

men. He described the Rehov Bar-Ilan demonstrations as being so violent that in one case an innocent bystander lost an eye.

Justice Minister David Liba' said the police try to find the balance between effectively carrying out their job and protecting civil rights. "The Police Investigation Department must protect lawabiding policemen, just as it must prosecute the law-breaking ones." Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza said police investigations had improved since the department had moved to the Justice Ministry from the Police Ministry. He called on demonstrators not to use violence.

Court reduces killer's sentence

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court, in a split decision, yesterday reduced the sentence of Nadav Nakan, convicted of helping to kill an elderly couple in California, to 12 1/2 years.

Nakan and Yair Or, both former members of Kibbutz Alonim, had gone to the US after finishing service in an elite army unit. Or became friendly with one Charles Le Gros, who hired the two to kill his parents-in-law, Carmen and Jack Hively, in 1987, so that his wife would inherit their money. Or and Nakan shot the two at close range while they were sleeping.

Because Or and Nakan were Israeli citizens at the time of the murder, they could not, under Israeli law, be extradited to the US. The US therefore sent the evidence to Israel so they could stand trial here - a first in Israeli legal history. They were convicted, and Or was sentenced to life in prison. Nakan, however, was convicted of manslaughter as a result of a plea bargain. Under the plea bargain,

Nakan would go to the US to testify against Le Gros - since without his testimony, there was not enough evidence to convict him - and in exchange, the state would request a sentence of no more than 12 1/2 years.

However, Tel Aviv District Court decided this sentence was far too light for such a serious crime. In a split decision, the court imposed a sentence of 15 years, with the minority judge advocating 18. Nakan then appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that the terms of the plea bargain should have been observed.

Justices Gavriel Bach and Dalia Dorner, with Misha'el Cheshin dissenting, accepted Nakan's appeal. Objectively, Bach said, the lower court is correct that 12 1/2 years is too light a sentence. Furthermore, no court has an obligation to accept a plea bargain that seems improper.

However, he continued, this plea bargain was not improper in light

of the circumstances at the time. Le Gros, who was the main criminal, stood to go free unless Nakan testified, and this would have been a greater perversion of justice than the reduction in Nakan's sentence. Therefore, he concluded, the "price" of reducing Nakan's sentence was reasonable, and the court should have accepted the bargain.

Cheshin, in his dissenting opinion, noted that the original plea bargain had set the sentence at 14 years. Later - knowing that the prosecution was in a corner, because it had promised the US authorities that Nakan would testify - Nakan reneged on the agreement, and used his position of strength to reduce his sentence still further.

The first agreement, Cheshin said, was both reasonable and freely entered into by the state, and therefore should be honored by the courts. The second, however, was simply the result of Nakan's successful extortion, from which Nakan should not be allowed to benefit.

Germany funding projects with Palestinian and Israeli researchers

JUDY SIEGEL

THE German Research Council will invest DM 3 million on two research projects that will be carried out jointly by Israeli, Palestinian, and German researchers, the Hebrew University announced yesterday.

These are the first trilateral research grants allocated by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), which declared that it aims not only to promote scientific inquiry but also to contribute towards a lasting peace among the parties involved. The projects were chosen by a professional delegation from the DFG that visited Israel recently.

One project, on uterine cancer diagnosis and theory, will be funded with DM 1.1 million over a two-year period. The research partners will be Prof. Abraham Hochberg and Nathan de Groot, of the HU's Silberman Institute of Life Sciences; Dr. Inna Ariel, of Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem; Dr. Farouk Hamad and Dr. Abdel Salam Qassem, of the Rafidia Surgical Hospital in Nabatieh; Prof. Dymitr Komitowski, of the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg; and Prof. Volker Erdmann, of the Free University of Berlin.

The other project, at DM 1.9 million, will focus on "alternative practices in Near East agriculture for environmental conservation." This will be coordinated by Prof. Shalom Applebaum, of HU's Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot, and include scientists from Gaza, Hebron, and the universities of Hohenheim and Bonn. It will deal with organic waste recycling, the evolution and distribution of herbicide-resistant weeds, and the control of the reproductive behavior of harmful moths.



Nara Alkalai, a nurse in the neonatal unit at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, holds one of three sets of triplets conceived through in-vitro fertilization who were born at the hospital this week. All nine infants are reported to be healthy and thriving. (Avi Hayoun)

Power Ranger gives Shahal boost

LIAT COLLINS

INTERNAL Security Minister Moshe Shahal, under threat by followers of Uzi Meshulam, met yesterday with the ultimate in cavalry: a Power Ranger.

"Tommy," the "White Ranger," held a short meeting with Shahal in the Knesset. Members of the popular children's show are in Israel to promote an anti-violence campaign for the Children's Channel. It's not clear whether the meeting will benefit future programs but it certainly boosted Shahal's ratings with those too

young to vote. Shahal wasted no time in trying to persuade the lone ranger to sign up with the Israeli Police: "If you join, I'll let all policemen grow long hair," he said, in deference to the Power Ranger's locks. "I'm booted to be here and appreciate your time," said Tommy. "We're here to help. We travel the world to promote anti-violence and anti-drugs for the kids and to provide positive role models the children can look up

to. We say 'no more violence' and 'say no to drugs.' So far we've been successful, reaching millions of kids around the world and anything we can do to help we're glad to do. That's what we're here for." "We're thrilled to have you with us," Shahal told the Power Ranger, noting the popularity of the program.

"On behalf of the police forces, I'd like to say violence is something we're trying to fight and you contribute by preaching non-violence."

Soldier who shot up Jaffa church sentenced to 4 1/2 years

HANIEL Koren, the soldier convicted of firing in the air inside St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa and attempting to torch the Gat Shmanim Church in Jerusalem, both in May 1995, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison and 18-months probation by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

In passing sentence, Judge Nathan Amit noted that Jonathan Ray Goldberg, Yigal Amir's lawyer, at one point offered to defend Koren and said that a public body would fund the defense. Goldberg, how-

ever, never appeared in court. Amit also noted that he accepted Koren's contention that he did not want to hurt anyone, but said that the defendant was totally unrepentant.

Koren had justified his actions by saying that idol worship is forbidden by the Torah and tempts Jews off the right path, and therefore action must be taken against it. Koren also said that he had received rabbinical authorization for his deeds.

"The defendant is not mentally

ill," Amit said. "He did what he did with complete understanding and his was a crime motivated by ideology." After the sentence was handed down, Koren's lawyer asked that a defense psychiatrist be allowed to examine him. Koren, however, said that the would not agree to this, and that the court had already ruled that he was sane.

Outside the court, Koren's mother Vivian said: "He's a young man who made a mistake. I apologize in his name." (Tim)

High Court asked to end experimental education program in Tel Aviv

EVELYN GORDON

A GROUP of Tel Aviv residents yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the city's decision to continue its experimental program allowing parents to choose their children's high school for a third year, and to expand the program to additional school districts.

The standard method is for the city to determine which children go to which high school, according to criteria meant to achieve a proper academic and socio-economic mix. In 1994, however, the cabinet approved a two-year experiment in parental choice in one southern district of Tel Aviv. The two years are to end this June, but the city decided to extend the program for a third year, and to expand it to additional school districts.

The petitioners, led by attorney

Yehuda Mei-Raz, argued that this decision is illegal, because it was approved by neither the cabinet nor the city council. The 1994 cabinet decision had been to allow the program for only two years, and an earlier, 1992, decision had stated that any changes in the standard method would require cabinet approval.

However, the petition continued, the decision should be illegal even had the necessary approvals been obtained, because it violates what has until now been the cardinal principle of Israeli education: that schools must be fully integrated, including a mix of students from richer and poorer socio-economic backgrounds, with weaker and stronger academic records. In its two years of existence, the

parental choice program has proved to have the opposite effect, the petition said. Better students gravitate toward the better schools in north Tel Aviv, and weaker students are left in the poorer schools of the south, thereby increasing the gap between the two groups.

Research tracking the achievements of the different students shows, for instance, that not a single student from the Gallit elementary school who went on to Herzliya Gymnasium failed a standard reading comprehension test last year, the petition said. However, among Gallit students who went on either to city school No. 9 or OKI, failure rates on the standardized test were 75.8% and 66.7%, respectively.

The previous year, before the parental choice program was introduced, the failure rate on the same test was only 23.3% for those Gallit students who went on to school No. 9, and 14.3% for Gallit students who went on to OKI.

In general, failure rates on the standardized test last year ranged from 9%-26% in the north Tel Aviv high schools included in the parental choice program, but between 24%-63% in the southern schools, the petition said. This shows that the schools involved in the program are far from equivalent, which, according to Education Ministry guidelines, is the prerequisite for any program involving parental choice, the petition added.

The group therefore asked the court halt the program.

ACRI protests soldier's imprisonment

EVELYN GORDON

THE army should immediately release a reserve soldier who was sentenced to 28 days in prison without being allowed to consult a lawyer, or even being informed of his trial in advance, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) demanded yesterday.

The case involved Meir Poppel, a resident of Moshav Batza. Poppel, who is married with four children, does his reserve duty as a combat medic in the southern command.

Three months ago, shortly after the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Poppel, then on reserve duty, allegedly said he did not understand why the murderer had gone for Rabin. If Yigal Amir was going to kill anyone, Poppel said, it should have been then foreign minister Shimon Peres.

As a result of this remark, Poppel was suspended for the remaining week of his reserve service. However, he heard nothing further until he was suddenly summoned to a disciplinary trial yesterday. The army refused to delay the trial until he could consult a lawyer. It also refused his request for a confrontation with the soldier who reported the remark, which Poppel denies making.

Poppel was convicted of two offenses - carrying a personal weapon and his remark about Peres - and sentenced to 28 days

in prison.

ACRI promptly sent an urgent letter to Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham, demanding that Poppel be released. Even if he said what he is charged with, ACRI said, this is not an excuse for being put in prison at all, much less for being given such a severe sentence - and it is certainly no excuse for being deprived of the

basic right to consult a lawyer before being tried.

As for the weapons offense, ACRI said, it has been unable to discover any regulation forbidding soldiers from carrying personal weapons. But even if such a regulation exists, the organization continued, it is clear that it was never enforced, and there is no justification for enforcing it selectively, and without warning, solely against Poppel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homeless man beaten to death

The body of a homeless man, Leonid Shnipper, 48, was found by his son yesterday in an abandoned house in Kiryat Ata. Police said Shnipper had been beaten to death.

Both the son and a friend of Shnipper's have been questioned by police, who said that empty liquor bottles were found in the room with his body.

Tim

Man takes revenge on luxury cars

An Ashdod man who took revenge on a man who owed him money by scratching luxury automobiles in his bonded warehouse was given a suspended sentence and fined NIS 750 by Ashdod Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Baruch Pepperman, 56, of Ashdod, damaged the cars because the owner of the warehouse owed him NIS 2,700. "I did it in a moment of weakness. Every time I asked for the money, he refused. After I caused the damage, I came and offered to compensate him." The judge noted Pepperman's clean record.

Tim

Court declines to order American's release

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by David Ben-Ariel against his imprisonment while awaiting expulsion, after the state said it was prepared to expel him immediately, thereby making further time in jail unnecessary.

Ben-Ariel, an American Christian active in the Temple Mount Faithful, was in prison for three weeks while the Interior Ministry considered his appeal against the expulsion order.

He petitioned the court on Monday asking to be let out on bail until the ministry made its final decision. The court agreed that the question was important, but said the ministry's decision made it moot.

Evelyn Gordon

Health funds get 1995 payment

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a NIS 150 million transfer to the health funds, as partial payment of what the government still owes them from 1995. The money will be transferred on condition that the funds promise to immediately repay the excess if it turns out that they have received more than they were owed.

Evelyn Gordon

Youth stabbed outside school in Nazareth

A teenager was stabbed and badly injured and another was lightly hurt in a fight outside a school in Nazareth yesterday. Police are investigating the incident in which at least four youths were involved.

David Rudge

Program to train geriatric professionals

A program to train more manpower for geriatric institutions has been formulated by the Health Ministry, the medical schools and the Israel Medical Association's Scientific Council.

Due to the aging of the population, the need for trained professionals in the field is growing. The ministry said yesterday that it would grant scholarships for those who train in the field, and that academic positions in geriatrics may be financed with public funds.

Judy Siegel

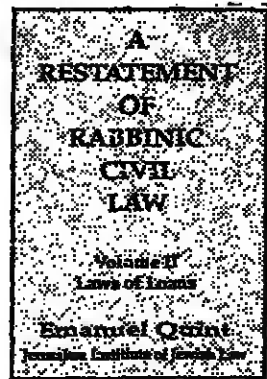
CF children attend camp in Eilat

A three-week camp for 30 Israeli and 20 German youngsters suffering from cystic fibrosis is being held in Eilat. The youngsters, whose genetic, life-threatening disease causes mucus to accumulate in their lungs, are undergoing physiotherapy, exercising and listening to lectures while having fun.

Judy Siegel

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Serbian opposition forms shadow 'parliament'

BELGRADE (Reuter) - Five leading parties opposed to President Slobodan Milosevic, boycotting Serbia's Socialist-controlled parliament, have united to set up a shadow "democratic assembly" in preparation for future elections.

The first session of this shadow parliament is scheduled to start today in the regular parliament building with the adoption of declarations on human rights and on a future Serbia - essentially the opposition's election campaign platform.

The five opposition parties walked out of the proper parliament last year in protest at what they said was "intolerable" socialist domination.

Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and its satellite Nova Demokratija party (ND) have 129 seats in the 250-seat parliament, a slim majority but enough to overrule the opposition regularly.

Political observers have long seen the opposition's lack of unity as its main problem.

"They are too far apart and easy prey for the SPS monolith," as one senior Western diplomat put it.

The five main parties - the nationalist Radical Party (SRP), two democratic parties (DS and DSS), the centrist Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) and an ethnic Hungarian party from Vojvodina (DZVM) province - now say they have resolved their differences and are solidly united in a single bloc.

"The opposition has started mutual cooperation in order to offer a different Serbia to its citizens," SPO deputy Milan Bozic said.

The opposition's target are future elections at the Serbian and federal level, neither of which has been scheduled yet - they can be delayed until December 1997.



Navy troops carry a badly wounded man from the scene of yesterday's suicide bomb attack in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The bomber rammed his truck full of explosives into the Central Bank, killing at least 55 and wounding over 1,400. (Reuters)

55 killed in Sri Lanka bombing

SUICIDE truck bombers devastated the heart of Colombo yesterday, sowing carnage and destruction in an attack on the Sri Lanka central bank which killed at least 55 and injured some 1,400.

"Fifty-five dead bodies have been counted at the Georger Hospital," Health Minister A.H.M. Fowzie told Reuters from the city's main hospital.

Central bank governor A.S. Jayewardene said on television some 40 central bank employees died in the huge blast.

Government officials said the death toll was expected to rise as about 100 of the injured were in critical condition and other victims were believed still trapped in rubble.

A private radio station put the death toll at 91.

The government blamed separatist Tamil Tigers for the attack, branding it a retaliation for the loss last December of their northern stronghold of Jaffna to a major government offensive, and vowed to press ahead with military operations.

MOHAN SAMARASINGHE
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

"If [Tamil Tiger chief] Velupillai Prabhakaran thinks that by these acts he can stop our military offensive, he is dreaming," Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told state television.

"We say quite clearly that these acts will make us even more determined to destroy terrorism."

The drama began around 10:45 a.m. when three people jumped from a moving three-wheel truck outside the Central Bank building on one of Colombo's busiest thoroughfares and began firing at random, a senior military official said.

The truck sped on to smash into and explode against an iron gate at the entrance of the bank, a three-tower complex some 500 meters from the office of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, which escaped unscathed.

The blast shook buildings in the neighborhood for several seconds as glass windows and ceilings came crashing down on terrified occupants.

This correspondent saw people rush to the exit of one building, screaming for help. The wounded began appearing everywhere, bloodied and looking dazed in their office clothes.

Many clung for support to walls and railings, which were quickly smeared red with blood. Many of the victims had been slashed by flying shrapnel and glass.

The marble staircase of one building was covered with blood.

Ratwatte said two suspected Tiger rebels who took part in the attack had been arrested.

Military sources said the truck was packed with 200 kg of explosive and was driven by a suicide rebel.

Intelligence sources had been saying for weeks a suicide squad from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) planned an attack in Colombo. (Reuter)

Polish coalition names Cimoszewicz as PM

WARSAW (Reuter) - Poland's two ruling coalition parties agreed yesterday on deputy parliamentary speaker Wlodzimirz Cimoszewicz as the new prime minister to head a reshuffled cabinet, the government's spokeswoman said.

Cimoszewicz's ex-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and its smaller Polish Peasant Party partners made the choice after tough negotiations that began after Jozef Oleksy resigned as premier on Friday over allegations he had spied for Moscow.

"Prime Minister Oleksy and [PSL leader] Pawlak have gone to see President Aleksander Kwasniewski to present the agreed candidate. This candidate is Wlodzimirz Cimoszewicz," spokeswoman Aleksandra Jakubowska told reporters.

Kwasniewski, eager to ease the uncertainty gripping Poland, earlier said he would appoint a prime minister as soon as the two uneasy coalition parties agreed on a name.

Cimoszewicz, a 45-year-old lawyer and former justice minister, met Kwasniewski along with leaders of the two coalition parties after the announcement.

Under Poland's constitution, Cimoszewicz would have 14 days to appoint a new cabinet and submit it to a vote of confidence in parliament.

Although a senior SLD figure, he is not a member of its core social democratic party and has sometimes differed in public from its views.

Kwasniewski is preparing to leave today for the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and the decision will allow him to reassure foreign business and political leaders that the government crisis is coming under control.

Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati, an independent, appealed on Tuesday for quick formation of a new government to avoid harming Poland's image as it seeks entry to NATO and the European Union.

It was not immediately clear what price in terms of top cabinet posts and economic policy adjustments the more reformist SLD would have to pay to the populist PSL for agreeing to Cimoszewicz rather than a Peasant party member.

The full cabinet line-up was not expected for some days.

Egyptian police nab militants plotting assassinations

CAIRO (AP) - Police yesterday announced the arrest of 45 alleged Moslem radicals accused of plotting assassinations and attempting to revive the Jihad group which killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The 45 men were arrested Monday in coordinated raids by anti-terrorist squads on hideouts in the Mediterranean ports of Alexandria and Port Said and the Nile Delta province of Qalqubia, an Interior Ministry statement said.

It said money, leaflets and other incriminating documents were seized during the arrests. New members in the group were indoctrinated with militant beliefs and taught martial arts.

The defendants confessed to carrying out armed robberies to finance their activities, the ministry said.

It said the defendants planned attacks on important buildings and assassinations of public figures and security officials as part of the revival of Jihad.

The suspects have not yet been charged. Over the years - particularly during the last four years of a Moslem militant campaign to overthrow the secular government - various defendants have been tried for attempts to revive Jihad.

Two men were executed last year after conviction on a such a charge.

In the campaign against against the government that began in 1992, Jihad claimed responsibility for some attacks.

More than 870 people have been killed in the militants attacks and battles with police.

Adams goes to US to counter UK plan for Ulster elections

DUBLIN (Reuter) - Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, left for the United States yesterday to enlist Washington's support against British plans to hold Northern Ireland elections.

Adams told reporters at Dublin airport that he would be holding talks with President Bill Clinton's National Security Adviser, Anthony Lake, and would press him to pressure Britain into scrapping the poll idea.

The Sinn Fein president, whose party seeks the end of British rule in Northern Ireland, said he wanted the Clinton administration to press instead for all-party talks to find a lasting Northern Ireland peace settlement.

"We will be looking for support in the US and across-the-board consensus to get the British prime minister to honor his commitment on all-party talks," he said.

"What we need is all-party talks by the end of next month," said Adams, who will also meet key members of the Irish-American lobby and Sinn Fein support groups.

Britain agreed with Ireland, its partner in a quest for Northern Ireland peace, that the end of February should be the target date for all-party talks to build on cease-fires by the Irish Republican Army and its Protestant Loyalist foes.

But Britain says such a forum cannot be convened until the IRA disarms.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nicaraguan police free hostages

MANAGUA (Reuter) - Police fired tear gas and rescued 81 hostages who had been held by protesting university students in the Foreign Ministry building, the government said.

National Police Chief Fernando Caldera said 107 students, "a good part of the hostage-takers," were arrested yesterday, and that police confiscated 27 home-made mortars and 520 bombs, several slingshots and an ax.

Greece and Turkey reach agreement

ATHENS (AP) - Greece and Turkey backed off yesterday from a military showdown in the Aegean Sea after the United States brokered a resolution to the dangerous dispute between the two historic enemies.

After days of moving troops and ships into the area, both Turkish and Greek forces withdrew yesterday morning from a cluster of rocks a few kilometers off Turkey's coast.

Architect Julius Posener dead at 91

BERLIN (AP) - Julius Posener, an architect, critic and lecturer who saw his role as an interpreter of the modern movement, has died at age 91 at his home outside of Berlin, the Academy of Art in Berlin said yesterday.

Posener, who died after a long illness on Monday, valued function over form in building design, a philosophy he learned from his teacher Hans Poelzig, under whom he studied during the 1920s in his native Berlin.

Posener illustrated his belief by stating that one should be able to stroll through a house, and that stairs were well-built when they were comfortably constructed.

A Jew born in Berlin in 1904, Posener emigrated to France as the Nazis rose in power, and became editor of the French journal *Architecture Today*.

His wanderlust later took him to Israel, Lebanon, London and Kuala Lumpur, where he lived and worked.



Scientists have caught a rare giant squid - 26 feet long and weighing nearly a ton - in waters east of New Zealand. (AP)

Court dismisses Reagan aide McFarlane's libel suit

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - A US appeals court on Tuesday dismissed a libel lawsuit by Robert McFarlane, White House National Security Adviser under President Ronald Reagan, over a 1991 Esquire magazine article accusing him of being an Israeli spy.

The appeals court upheld a federal trial judge's ruling that threw out the lawsuit because McFarlane failed to show clear and convincing evidence that Esquire had published the article with "actual malice."

Under Supreme Court precedent, in order for public figures to win libel lawsuits they must prove the defendant acted with "actual malice" - knowledge the statements were false or with reckless disregard for the truth.

The article by free-lance author Craig Unger concerned the so-called "October Surprise," in which members of the 1980 Reagan campaign team allegedly tried to delay the release of the US hostages in Iran until after the presidential election.

The article alleged that McFarlane, then an aide to a Republican senator from Texas, attended a 1980 meeting with Iranian officials in Tehran, a session that paved the way for a later crucial meeting in October in Paris.

The lawsuit focused on a passage quoting Ari Ben-Menashe, a former Israeli spy.

Ben-Menashe alleged that McFarlane had been "recruited" by Israeli spy Rafi Eitan and that McFarlane was the other American spy identified by investigators in the Jonathan Pollard spy case involving Israel in the mid-1980s.

The article did raise questions about Ben-Menashe's credibility, noting he had failed a lie detector test.

Co-creator of Superman dies

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Jerry Siegel, who as a teenager in the Depression co-created Superman and started a craze for comic book superheroes that has never abated, has died at age 81, the publishers of Superman comics said on Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for DC Comics said Siegel died on Sunday at his home in Los Angeles of heart failure. Joseph Shuster, the Canadian immigrant who drew the comic strip which Siegel wrote, died in 1992 at age 78, also in Los Angeles.

The two childhood friends, both science fiction fanatics, had just graduated from Glenville High School in Cleveland in 1934 when they created "The Man of Steel," a gentleman more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound and faster than a speeding bullet.

It took them four years to sell the idea to National Allied Periodicals, which also bought the rights to the characters Siegel and Shuster created for less than \$200.

The two men earned a fairly lucrative salary drawing and writing the comic books until 1947 when they sued for more money and were fired.

They never wrote or drew the Superman comic books again, and were reported near poverty in the early 1970s when the first of major new series of Superman films came out.

After a protest by comic book artists around the country, Warner, which owned DC Comics, put the two men on a pension which rose into the six figures over the years.

While Siegel's and Shuster's fortunes rose and fell, Superman, an immigrant from the planet Krypton, achieved the American dream. He became a star in virtually every form of media from comic books to films to television, spawning many imitators from Captain Marvel to Wonder Woman, Batman and Spiderman.

Siegel is survived by his wife Joanne, a model for the original Lois Lane, a daughter, a son, and two grandsons.

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Tajik talks in peril as tensions mount

ASHGABAT, Tajikistan (Reuter) - The government of Tajikistan threatened to pull out of peace talks with the exiled opposition yesterday after at least two government soldiers were killed by rebel attacks in the Central Asian state.

Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, leading the government team, said after meeting with

the opposition in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat that if fighting continued "the government will stop its participation in the talks."

A government spokesman said by telephone from the Tajik capital Dushanbe that the two soldiers were killed in an attack in the Tavildara region of central Tajikistan on Tuesday.

Pass the cream

A guide to Small Claims Court

Since the beginning of time, explorers have been searching for the elixir of youth. The desire to prevent, eliminate or at least retard the biological evidence of aging is felt by all.

And, every year, the world's leading multibillion dollar cosmetic companies subject us to scores of new products, trumpeted in by advertising and PR hype, which promise us smoother, more glowing, more radiant and, most importantly, younger-looking faces.

Estee Lauder's Fruitn supposedly reactivates the skin. The promotional blurb hables about dramatic results in increased skin clarity and improvements in texture and tone.

Some of the other products which allegedly "combat visible signs of aging," "counteract skin damaging effects of oxidants," "reduce wrinkles," "renew and hydrate," "diminish fine lines," "promote cell renewal" and "revitalize the face" include: Roc's Retinol Wrinkle Resolution and Melbiose Anti-age series; L'Oreal's Plenitude; Clarin's Multi-Active Nuit; Clinique's Turnaround; Pond's Performance Age Defying Complex; Sisley's Hydra-Flash; Decleor's Time Care Serum; and Yves Saint Laurent's Prevention + Time Prevention Day Creme.

But the product being pushed most forcefully by both the electronic and print media is Lancome's Primordiale, which British Vogue listed among the best beauty buys for 1995.

FLAIR GREER FAY CASHMAN



Sisley's Hydra-Flash and Yves Saint Laurent's Prevention + allegedly combat aging signs.



Touted by its manufacturers as "a visibly rejuvenating treatment" representing a great

breakthrough in the delivery of up to "30 times more than the usual quantity of Vitamin E direct to the cells where it can be more efficient." Primordiale does not quite deliver on its promises. And, in fact, its listing in Vogue does not constitute an endorsement.

The 10-line text, which is devoted initially to the explanation of the product name, states "we do understand however that it contains a technologically advanced way of delivering masses of vitamin E to your skin." And almost anything to do with keeping age at bay has to contain vitamin E.

"The results begin to show in eight days," gushed the company's representative, and indeed they did, but more in terms of a nightmare than a dream. Suddenly, there were age spots which had never been there previously, those fine lines reflecting the road map of my life became even more firmly etched and even a cold sore refused to go away.

My skin was neither toned, glowing, nor rejuvenated. If anything, it was drier and less smooth than prior to the application.

One of the plus factors about Primordiale according to the company's representative is that it can be used in conjunction with other "quality" brand products. After occasionally resorting to some of the above-mentioned treatments as well, I can't say, after a month of use, that I've noticed any improvement. But then again, I may be wrong. Perhaps I should get my eyes tested.

CAVEAT EMPTOR! RUTHIE BLUM

Many consumers don't consider suing for redress in Small Claims Court worth the effort - especially since relatively small sums of money are involved.

New immigrants, for whom Hebrew is an additional hurdle, are even more likely to shy away from litigation, especially since most don't realize that the court will provide a translator.

However, the process is not nearly as daunting as you would imagine. Below is a guided tour of the process.

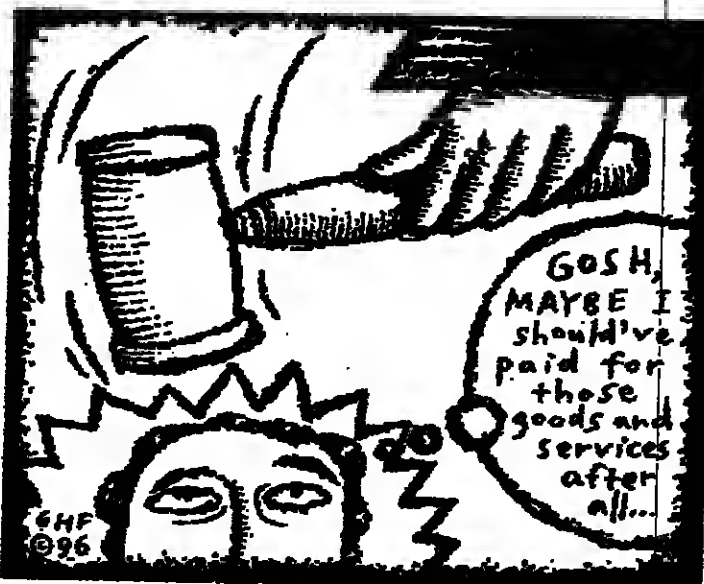
A Small Claims Court (*beit mishpat levi k'tanot*) is located within every magistrate's court (*beit mishpat shalom*) in the country, including those in small towns.

The phone numbers of each Small Claims Court can be found in the directory under "*beit mishpat shalom*." Claims can be filed during office hours - usually from 3:30 to 8:30, Sunday through Thursday.

Court cases are also sometimes held during the morning and early afternoon, depending on the judge's schedule.

The maximum amount of a single claim is currently NIS 8,000. Representation by a lawyer during the trial - which has an informal atmosphere - is forbidden, unless special permission is granted. Witnesses, however, are welcome.

The standard form you must complete to file a claim is obtained from the office of the secretary (*mashkin*) of the Small Claims Court. The secretary will answer any questions related to



the procedure, including: how to fill out the forms; what information must be provided; which relevant documents (receipts, photographs, warranties, etc.) should be attached; and how many copies of each you will need (one set for each defendant, one set for the court and one for yourself, plus the judge will need to see the originals during the trial).

After the forms and attached documents are completed, you submit them to the secretary, who will send you to the cashier (*kassa*) to pay in cash a court fee equal to 0.5% of the sum of the claim.

At this point, you may request to have a simultaneous translator present during the trial. In most locations, the court will provide one for several languages. (English is available everywhere.) The name of the judge who will

try your case and the trial date, usually several months from when the claim is filed, will either be given to you on the spot or mailed to you. The court also will send a summons with a copy of your claim form and documents to the defendant.

When the defendant receives your claim, he is given 15 days to submit a statement of defense (*k'zav hagama*), a copy of which will be sent to you by the court. If he fails to do so within the allotted time, you can request that an early verdict be issued on the basis of your claim alone.

It is a good idea to contact the court secretary a couple of weeks after filing to find out if the defendant actually received his summons. If not, you may want to make new copies and have them sent again - perhaps to a different

address - or to serve them yourself by hand.

To be on the safe side, contact the court secretary again a few days before the trial date to reconfirm and to check that the defendant not only was summoned properly, but also that he did not request a postponement. (Though you should be informed of postponements in the mail, mix-ups often happen.) This is particularly important if you have witnesses lined up. It is also a good idea to put in an extra reminder about having a translator present.

The verdict is usually presented at the trial's conclusion. If the verdict is in your favor, the defendant must pay you immediately. If he cannot do so, you may grant him a grace period in which to come up with the money. If the trial was held and/or the verdict handed down in the defendant's absence, the court is supposed to send him a copy of the verdict in the mail. (It can't hurt to send him a copy yourself, via registered mail, for good measure.)

Finally, if a defendant receives a verdict and ignores it, you can take the file to the execution office (*mishrad habotza'a la'k'fat*), which - for a fee, that is added to the defendant's bill - will track him down and get the money he owes you.

If the verdict is in the defendant's favor, it is likely that you will be charged for court expenses, which are left to the judge's discretion.

The Small Claims Court can refuse to try more than five suits per plaintiff per year.

You are invited to ask questions or offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Operators stand by! Here's the book by the guru of gadgets

This article is not available in stores! For a limited time only, you can own one of the most amazing works in journalism history! It illuminates!

It also tells the strange saga of TV pitchman Ron Popeil, a tale involving murder plots, multiple wives and a diet of chicken feet.

For four decades, Popeil has sliced, diced and Mr. Microphoned his way across American TV screens. He has unleashed such products as the Veg-O-Matic, the Pocket Fisherman, Hula Ho (the weeder with a wiggle) and GLH spray-on hair.

He has endured spoofs by *Saturday Night Live* and a plunge into bankruptcy.

And now, at age 60, he's back. This time he's peddling a new invention: his autobiography.

To Popeil, *The Salesman of the Century* (Delacorte Press) is an American success story - the account of a college dropout who overcame adversity and has sold (so far) more than \$1 billion in goods.

But it's also a fairy tale gone awry. Between the lines is the story of an affection-starved youth who discovered that the only way he could relate to people was by selling them stuff.

Popeil's Beverly Hills home is guarded by an electronic gate, security cameras and a dog named Pasta. This is the heart of Popeil's infomercial empire, Ronco Inc. Here, products are tested and TV spots taped.

The house is also something of a shrine to his merchandise. An Inside the Shell Egg Scrambler rests on a kitchen counter. A redesigned Pocket Fisherman is draped across a table. And two Automatic Pasta Makers squat near a smoke-belching mystery device that seems destined to go

back to the drawing board. In the middle of it all, lounging on the couch, is the guru of gadgets himself.

Speaking in his hypnotic voice, the one that causes credit cards to twitch in their owners' wallets, the Bronx-born hawkler reminisces about his achievements.

"I think I've fulfilled the American dream," he declares. But Popeil wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth - or even a Ginsy knife.

When he was three, his parents divorced and essentially abandoned him. Exiled to an upstate New York boarding school, he didn't see them for years.

When he was about eight, his paternal grandparents took him in, but life remained miserable, he says. The old couple fought constantly, served meals made from chicken feet and showed Popeil little affection.

It wasn't until they moved to Chicago - where his father manufactured kitchenware - that Popeil found salvation.

There, he stumbled upon Maxwell Street, the gritty equivalent of a modern-day flea market. At 16, he joined the rough-and-tumble collection of street vendors and thieves who unloaded merchandise there.

He purchased a hunch of gizmos from his dad and dove into the maelstrom.

"I pushed. I yelled. I hawked," he recalls. "And it worked."

But there was more to Maxwell Street than money. "I had lived for 16 years in homes without love," he writes. "Now I had finally found a form of affection, and a human connection, through sales."

Popeil claims he cleared \$1,000 a week, a gold mine by 1950s standards.



Ron Popeil appearing on an LA radio station show: 'I think I've fulfilled the American Dream.'

Then he discovered late-night television. And thus began a parade of products still seared into public consciousness: Chop-O-

Matics, Dial-O-Matics ("You can slice a tomato so thin it only has one side!") and Feather Touch Knives ("So sharp they could

shave the eyebrows off a New Jersey mosquito!"). By the early 1970s, Ronco was cruising up the American Stock

Exchange. And Popeil, the man who one reporter said could sell fingernail polish to the Venus de Miln, was a jet-setting millionaire.

But his family life was a wreck. In 1974, Popeil's stepmother, Eloise, was convicted of trying to have Popeil's father murdered. Then, after she served a 19-month sentence, the elder Popeil remarried her.

His obsession with work took a toll: he's currently on wife No. 4; he struggled to name even two friends in a recent interview; and he has never once used his own tennis court or pool.

Popeil admits that he's been a lousy husband and mediocre dad, but says he's trying to break the pattern with his youngest daughter, Lauren, who is now 12. (His two other children are adults.) But Popeil concedes he hasn't seen her in months.

During a hiatus from TV following his bankruptcy, he worked on a videotape device that projected subliminal self-help messages onto home TV screens and a computer handwriting analysis program that rated couples' compatibility.

In the early '90s, Popeil launched his television comeback, blitzing cable stations with infomercials for electric food dehydrators, pasta makers and aerosol hair.

He says he made more money than ever.

And now there's Ron Popeil the book (he originally wanted to title it "As Seen on TV"). Half the text is tips for other inventors.

He is currently trying to cut a deal that would allow him to sell his company but keep a hand in creating and selling its products.

If negotiations fall through, he muses momentarily, he might simply retire. But seconds later, he says, "You're always going to see Ronco or Popeil in the marketplace. I'll never stop."

Operators are standing by. (Los Angeles Times)

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1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS

Syria's election impact

LABOR Party leaders insist there is no connection between the negotiations with Syria and the pending decision on advancing the Knesset elections. But Prime Minister Shimon Peres's office has been frank enough to say that if a meeting between him and Syrian dictator Hafez Assad can be arranged, the election date will be fixed accordingly. There is, then, a very real connection between the Syrian negotiations and the elections, and there is nothing wrong with it. There is also nothing improper with taking advantage of a favorable political climate and a high standing in the polls to call an election. In the United Kingdom, governments seize such opportunities without qualms. Nor can the opposition object: bringing down the government is the goal it is expected to pursue, and the sooner it has an opportunity to replace the government, the better.

But there are considerations which may give Peres pause. Once he sets the election date for some time in May or June - something he must do by mid-February - the talks with Syria can be viewed as suspended. No government can make concessions, let alone reach fateful decisions, while actively seeking the electorate's favors.

This is particularly true of Labor, which has to appear hawkish to appeal to voters on the right. Under the new system of direct elections for the prime minister, the left has nowhere to go. It will have to vote for Peres rather than for Binyamin Netanyahu, even if he begins to sound like a nationalist firebrand. And since the chance of Syrian flexibility in response to a

tougher government line is virtually non-existent, a freeze in the negotiations for the three months of the campaign is inevitable.

This is not the scenario favored by the US administration. Washington is convinced that the talks have gathered momentum as a result of Peres's readiness to make the kind of concessions the late Yitzhak Rabin refused to consider. Declarations like "Ten hotels can give as much security as 10 military outposts," made by Peres on Sunday, could never have been uttered by Rabin.

Nor did Rabin make it as clear as Peres has done that Israel would accept a retreat to the international border, a few meters from the Kinneret. (According to sources close to the prime minister, it is between this border and the lake that Peres intends to construct the hotels).

Washington may fear not only that the hiatus caused by the election campaign will risk the loss of the current momentum, but that an election upset (as unlikely as it may seem now) will nullify much of what the administration considers "progress" in the negotiations.

Despite American assurances of non-intervention in such "a purely domestic Israeli affair" as the elections, there are persistent reports that the administration is hoping to attain a "breakthrough" to help Peres. This is supposed to consist of a document like the Oslo Declaration of Principles, which will be signed by Assad and Peres in Washington even before such thorny issues as the withdrawal lines are resolved. The likelihood of such a signing ceremony and its timing will probably determine Peres's decision on the date of the election.

Red herring election

IT may seem strange that British Prime Minister John Major's attempt to introduce an election into the peace process in Northern Ireland should spark so much opposition, not only from the Northern Irish nationalist camp, but from the government of the Irish Republic, and to some extent from Washington. It is odd to find democrats crying foul at the idea of an election.

But in the complex world of Anglo-Irish politics, nothing is ever as simple as it might appear. At the heart of the matter lies no objection to a democratic process, but an accusation of bad faith by the British government. Earlier this month a US-chaired commission presented its report recommending ways to break the deadlock in the stalled peace process. The commission was accepted by all sides to provide a fresh, outside look at the Irish problem.

One of the main reasons the commission was deemed necessary was that the Anglo-Irish peace talks had ground to a halt over British insistence that the Irish Republican Army and the Unionist militias in Northern Ireland surrender ("decommission" in diplomatic jargon) their arms before further talks on the country's future could be held.

The British had first insisted on a cease-fire in the Northern Irish civil war before any constitutional talks. This was a legitimate, indeed admirable, position. When the IRA did declare its cease-fire 16 months ago, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres was said to have quipped to an Irish official: "You've got peace before the process; we've got a process."

But Britain's hard-line on arms decommissioning has been carried too far, leading the

peace process into an impasse and leaving Sinn Fein (the IRA's political voice) feeling unwarded for achieving the cease-fire. Britain adamantly refused to accept Irish government formulas for side-stepping the decommissioning roadblock. However, the US-led commission bluntly shot the ground from under Major by declaring in its key recommendation that he should stop using decommissioning to block all-party talks - decommissioning should be part of the agenda, not a pre-condition.

Instead of conceding the point graciously, the British government leaped over it to the 56th item in the US commission's report, which suggested Northern Ireland elections as another desirable element in the peace process. Major now insists on such elections as a pre-condition to all-party talks - effectively replacing the decommissioning roadblock with an electoral one. The nationalists have no intention of accepting a return to the old, gerrymandered, Unionist-packed Stormont assembly before proper power-sharing is negotiated.

What has angered Dublin is the suspicion that Major, an unpopular prime minister with a dwindling parliamentary majority, is playing political games with the peace process to keep the support of Northern Irish Unionists in the House of Commons.

This is a gross error by Major - Irish memories of their country being used as a football for domestic British politics are long and bitter. Even more seriously, the long-fought-for cease-fire in the North is becoming shakier by the day. A permanent peace accord for Ireland is somewhat more important than preserving the seats of Tory politicians in Westminster.



Schoolgirls speak up

A small group of schoolgirls aged 14-17 from Kedumim recently appeared before a private sitting of the Shamgar Commission. No TV cameras or journalists recorded their discreet entry into a quiet room where they were greeted by the recorder of the committee looking into the security lapse on the night of Yitzhak Rabin's murder. Their teacher Sarah Eliash had already appeared voluntarily before the commission and related how her pupils had run to see her on the night of the killing. In tears they said they knew Yigal Amir, and had recognized him on their TV screens.

They had met both Amir and Avishai Raviv, the GSS agent, at the new settlement of Ma'aleh Yisrael near Barkan in Samaria last summer. So startling was Eliash's evidence that Shamgar requested that the girls give their account of events to the commission personally.

Initially, the girls refused to do so point-blank. They were terrified of being harassed by police, as had happened to other girls who had been slapped and beaten in Hebron and forced to come to Jerusalem. They feared arrest, as had happened to so many others who had known both Amir and Raviv. The last thing they wanted, they said, was to be put into prison without trial and not be able to see their parents.

Having received a firm commitment by the commission that the girls' safety would be guaranteed, their teacher suggested to them that it was their civic duty to relate what had happened. Although still nervous, they finally agreed to be brought from their homes to Jerusalem.

"We used to see Raviv and Amir on Saturdays during last summer," they related. "These gatherings were arranged by Yigal. We would sit out on the hilltop there. There was no demonstrations or any violence. They were basically study groups. We met like that several times."

It was then that one of the girls told the recorder: "Raviv was real macho. He kept saying to Yigal: 'You keep talking about killing Rabin. Why don't you do it? Are you frightened? You say you want to do it. Show us what you're a man! Show us what you're made of!'"

The other girls present corroborated the evidence. How did Amir react to the

URI DAN AND DENNIS EISENBERG

goaded by Raviv? they were asked. All replied in roughly the same way: "He didn't react. He just sat there and said nothing, or he changed the subject."

The Amir trial reveals details of events on those Saturdays, and much of the evidence given at the Shamgar Commission covers a great deal of the same ground. But one vital matter seems not to be getting any attention at all.

We know that Raviv was an agent for the GSS, whose task it was to penetrate the settler and right-wing religious student organizations. To do so he had even set up his own Eyal extremist group at a demonstration right in front of Rabin's home in Ramat Aviv. It was a legitimate action, the kind in use by secret services the world over.

But at what point did Raviv cross that crucial and dangerous red line to become a full-blooded agent provocateur, as the Kedumim girls so graphically described?

This is a technique which was

Why is the role Avishai Raviv played in inciting murder being ignored?

cultivated in an amateurish way by the Russian czars, and turned into a chilling, brutal science by the Bolsheviks and Stalin.

Such an act is anathema to any democracy. And Israel has, rightly, always proudly claimed to be the only democracy in the Middle East.

What happened to the upper echelons in the GSS to mar this image? Not to put too fine a point on it - to order provocative actions is grossly immoral and corrupting.

We believe this matter should not be swept under the carpet. There are important questions which must be answered. No agent works on his own initiative. Raviv had handlers and case officers - at least 10, as revealed to the writers of this column. And doubtless there were others like Raviv in operation.

TO BECOME an agent provoca-

teur had to have had the blessing of the very top echelon. GSS boss Karmi Gillon must have been aware of it, for no underling would have dared take such a drastic step on his own initiative.

And if Gillon knew, it raises this question: Did Gillon's boss, the prime minister, know anything about the astonishing operation going on in democratic Israel? Or was he kept in the dark?

We know, furthermore, that the GSS turns to the legal authorities of the country for permission to carry out special acts of controlled force against suspected terrorists. The legal authorities, rightly so, give the GSS such permission in the interests of its citizens' welfare.

Which legal authority did Gillon or his deputies turn to in order to obtain the law's blessing for an act normally practiced in only the most brutal dictatorship regimes?

These questions are not being posed out of mild curiosity. They are vital matters which the new boss of the GSS, the strongly independent naval hero Ami Ayalon, will certainly look into as he begins to revitalize the secret service.

Ayalon will certainly want to know the answers, and we believe he will make it his business to uncover the unsavory agent provocateur business unfolded by the young girls who saw it function at close quarters.

He has the courage to do it. If ever a man has proved himself, it is Ayalon. In the epic battle to capture the Green Island Egyptian sea base during the War of Attrition in 1969 he was wounded three times, first in the hand, then the neck, and finally in the chest before seeking medical treatment.

Ayalon may well need all his determination to sweep away the labyrinthine political games GSS chiefs are playing instead of focusing on their key role in the months ahead: The danger of terrorism facing the country from the areas under PLO control now so desperately close to the heartland of major Israeli cities.

And Avishai Raviv? What has happened to him? The last time he was seen, he was being driven off in a GSS vehicle with the words "Shalom haver" on its rear window.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Sir - I was surprised that your leader of January 14 approved of the trans-Israel expressway. Are there no environmentalists on your staff? You also ask that others campaign for a railway network, but why not do so yourself? For a start, you could change your motoring column to a transport column and get the writer to talk about buses, trains and bicycles in addition to cars. At the dawn of the motoring age, the driver really was safe and free, but as you mentioned, what remains is just a "feeling" which even jams and parking problems cannot destroy. To stop people from driving is "undemocratic" and would be political suicide for any leader who tried. Therefore, since cars cannot be removed from the roads to let the buses travel unhindered, an alternative form of public transport which cars cannot share is required and the railway fulfills that need. However, given the choice, the commuter will prefer his car to the train and only dire road conditions will make him leave his darling at home. Thus the only way to enter the post-industrial age of public rather than private transport is not to build new roads, nor to improve existing ones, but to build just railways. One day the only place to find a car will be in a museum, but meanwhile we must be thankful that Israel is not rich enough for each family to afford its own helicopter... Tel Aviv. GORDON GOLDMAN

JEWISH HERITAGE

Sir - Further to your report of January 18 about Israeli relations with the Vatican, I would like to commend Minister Shretret for bringing up the subject of the golden menorah from the Second Temple in his talks with the Vatican. The menorah was brought to Rome by Titus following its destruction in 70 CE along with other vessels from the Temple. We ask Mr. Shretret that he not forget the other sacred vessels from the Temple and the treasures of Judaism and manuscripts taken during the Church's persecutions (the Crusades, the Inquisition etc.). These are known to be held by the Vatican and should be returned to Israel as its rightful national heritage. RABBI CHAIM KAUFMAN, Director of Public Affairs, Jerusalem. The Temple Institute

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Sir - Dr. Robert Slater (Letters, January 12) derides as disingenuous Professor Shlomo Avineri's earlier article, "Stop citing Gandhi and King" (December 29). It is Dr. Slater who is being disingenuous in claiming that Henry David Thoreau's Essay on Civil Disobedience (in his words) "inspired many Americans to use this form of protest against their government." Dr. Slater is skewing history to fit his ideological needs. The few Americans who utilize the sophisticated and complex concept of civil disobedience as a socially responsible means to change government policy, did so pacifically. The disruptive and destructive antics of groups like Zo Artzenu would be unrecognizable to scholars and activists alike as examples of civil disobedience as that phrase is generally understood. Dr. Slater speaks with remarkable certainty of how "true democracies like the US" would respond to the actions of a group like Zo Artzenu. Dr. Slater might have to revise his opinion of the presumed American response as the American government finds itself confronting increasingly volatile extremists bent - as here - on nothing less than the downfall of the government while proclaiming themselves to be operating in the tradition of civil disobedience. MURIEL MCQUILTON Kiryat Tivon.

POSTSCRIPT I

A LITTLE girl born with a perpetually grumpy look underwent surgery that could literally bring a smile to her face. "I'm fine, and excited," said seven-year-old Chelsea Thomas in Woodland Hills, California. The corners of the blonde, blue-eyed girl's mouth sag because she was born without a key nerve in her face, a condition called Moebius Syndrome that afflicts up to 1,000 people in the US. The nerve transmits commands to facial muscles that control smiling, frowning and pouting. Doctors removed muscle and nerve from Chelsea's leg and transplanted it to one side of her face. If the transplant succeeds - something that won't be known for several months - the other side will be done later. "She'll be able to smile for the first time, and that's something every parent waits for. Usually it happens in the first few weeks of their life, but we've had to wait a little bit longer," said Lori, the girl's mother. "It's been hard for her because people think she's unfriendly or ignoring them or bored," the mother said. "It's been hard. Kids stare at her. Adults are pretty understanding, but she has a worse time with kids."

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Haven't you always wondered how firemen dry out their boots? Alright; even if you haven't, we're proud to give you this Picture Postscript exclusive. (M. Dekel)

Gene mix

ANDRE MENACHE

Genetic engineering represents one of this century's most dramatic breakthroughs in biomedical research - of that there can be no doubt. And what we have seen so far probably represents only the tip of the iceberg. Already, however, some of this technology has been applied to the complex field of organ transplants. Over the last several decades, public awareness of the medical feasibility of organ transplantation as a viable means of prolonging human life has increased. This awareness, combined with a strong desire on the part of the medical establishment to promote the technique of transplants, has resulted in the creation of a demand for suitable donor organs that has far outstripped the limited supply. This situation has led some medical circles to search for donor organs outside the human species, in the animal world. The use of animal organs for transplantation into human beings has traditionally met with failure, since the donor organ has generally been rejected by the human recipient. The advent of genetic engineering techniques, however, has provided proponents of organ transplants with renewed impetus, and they are busily engaged in promoting the concept. Against this background, experiments have been carried out in which human genetic material is combined with ani-

Transplanting animal organs into humans is fraught with risk

mal, in order to produce what is known as a transgenic animal, whose organs are therefore also transgenic. Experiments in which doctors would connect a transgenic pig liver to a human being in need of a liver transplant received clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration in July 1995. Transgenic animals are, in effect, a new sub-species of animal. A transgenic pig is no longer a pig - it is a unique genetic aberration. And problems have arisen. Inserting human genes into animals has been known to have a deleterious effect on the animal's general health - for example, it has been found to cause arthritis. And we are still a long way from understanding what other effects human genes may have on the animal, especially on its immune system. This could have negative repercussions for human patients on the receiving end of an animal transplant.

THERE IS a far more serious concern however: the possibility of transmitting known - and unknown - viruses and bacteria from animal to man. Jonathan Allen, a virologist at the South-West Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, was recently quoted in Time magazine as saying: "This is a big mistake. It only takes one transmission from one baboon to a human to start an epidemic. There's no way you can make it safe." There exists a disturbing similarity between genetic engineering and nuclear research, in the sense that both can have potentially devastating effects on the human population. The use of transgenic organs for man is still in the very early and experimental stages of its development. For this reason alone, transgenic transplants should be put on hold in the interests of public health until such time as an independent commission of inquiry has studied the subject in far greater depth, and can determine the possible negative effects on human health and on the environment.

The public has been presented with a dilemma by the medical establishment: Organ transplants can save lives, but there is a shortage of suitable human organs. Clearly, the idea of using animal organs is tempting. Belgium appears to have come up with a safer and more original idea: an "opt-out" scheme in which an individual's organs are presumed to be available after his or her death, unless otherwise indicated. Suitable alternatives to transgenic transplants thus would appear to exist. They need to be explored in more depth, and made more accessible to the public.

The writer, a veterinary surgeon, is president of the Society of Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (UK), and a member of the Israel National Council on Animal Experimentation.

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Jerusalem Post
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THE JERUSALEM
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TRAVELER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996



Photo by Stanton H. Patty

Above: Chinese visitors enjoy ice-cream bars near the Great Wall.
Right: Travelers find steep grades and slippery walking surfaces in places along the ancient ramparts of the Great Wall of China.

TRAVERSING CHINA'S GREAT WALL

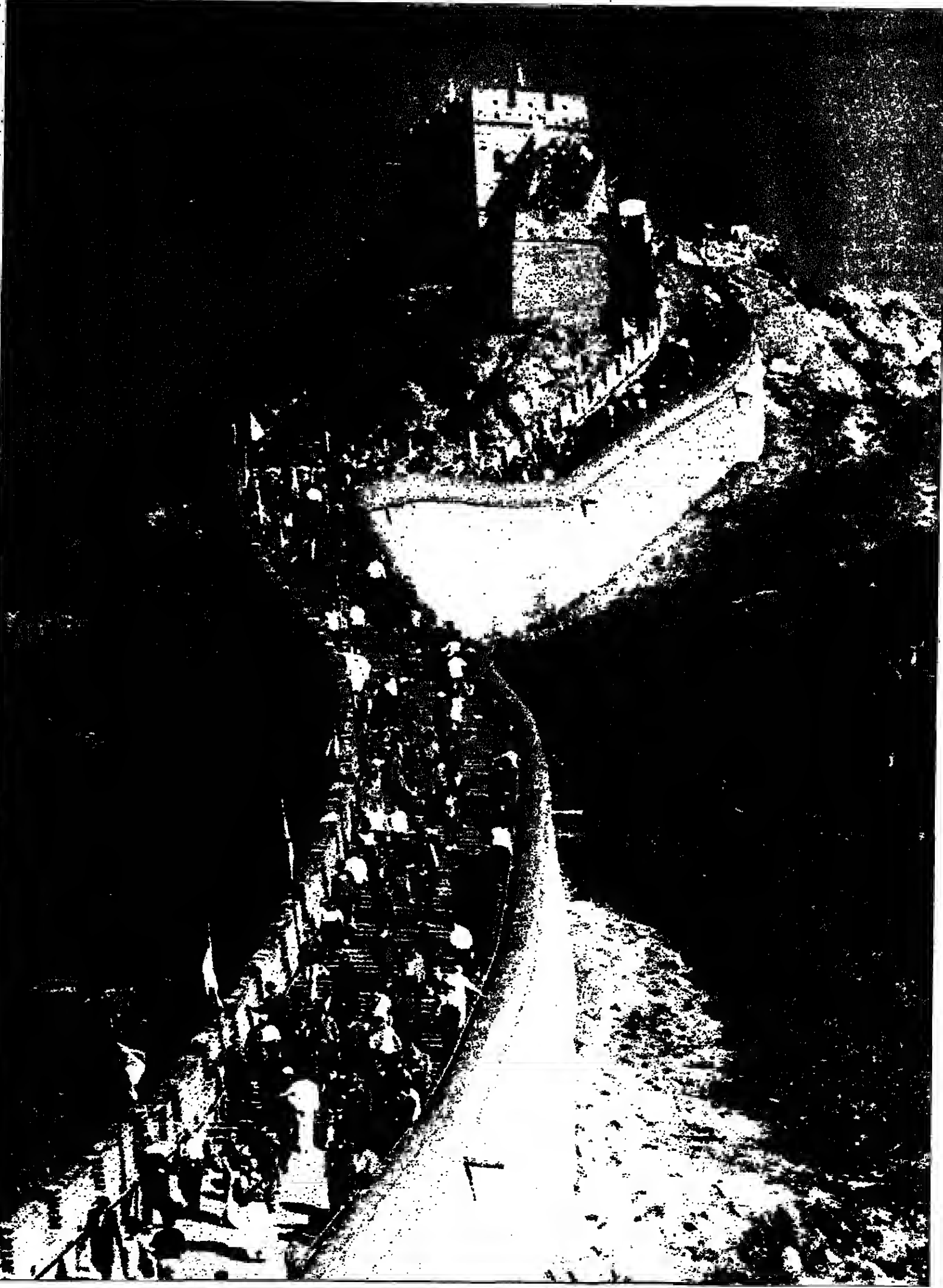


Photo by Stanton H. Patty

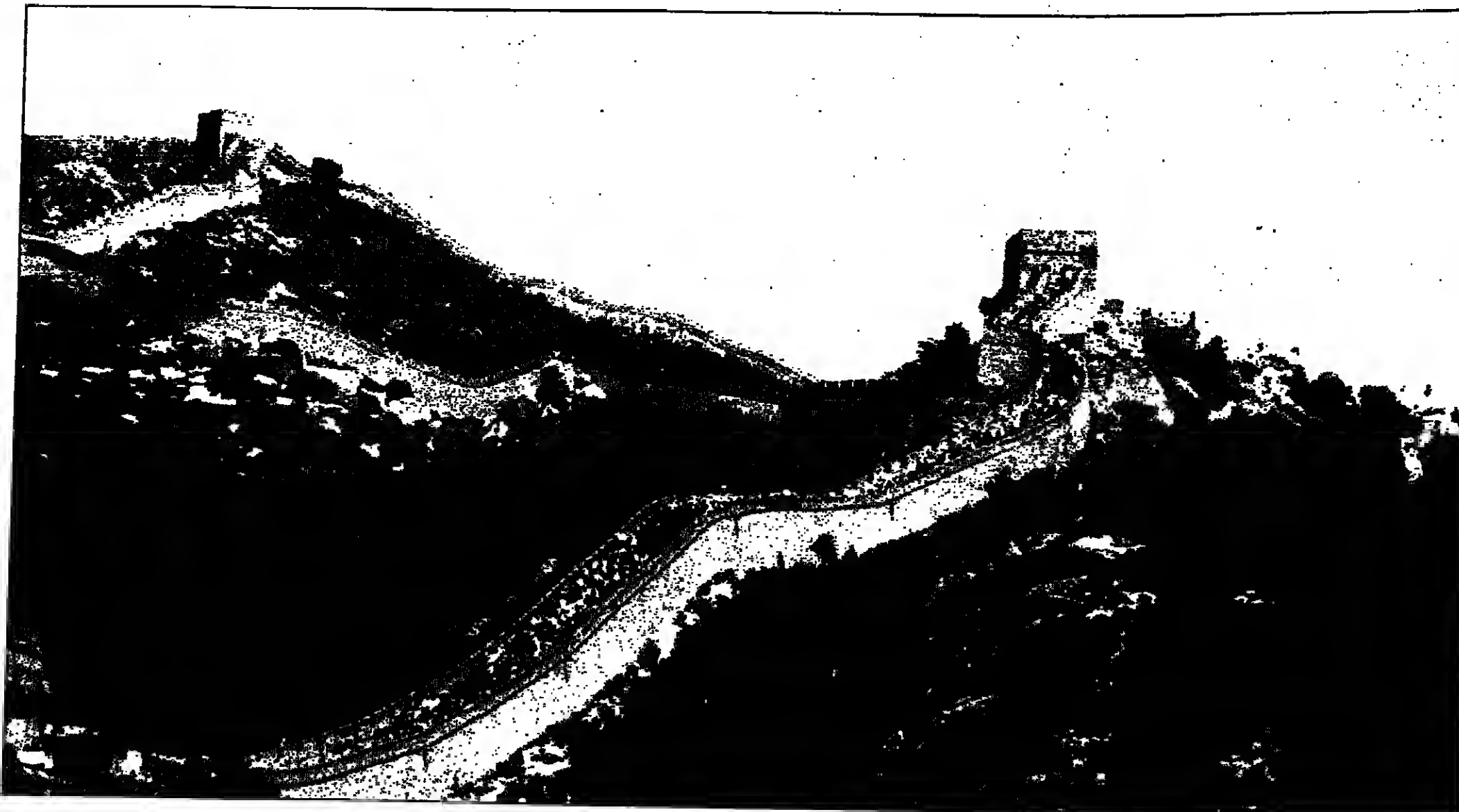
by Stanton H. Patty

BEIJING, China—The Great Wall is... well, great. But one does need a strategy for a rewarding visit to China's main attraction. The problem is people—more people than you ever may have seen at one time in one place. You could reach the Great Wall of China after an expensive trip only to be smothered in noisy crowds. Picture a football stadium with 50,000 or more impatient fans climbing a single aisle to exit the building after a game. That's what it feels like on the Great Wall. In fact, Ginny, our helpful China International Travel Service guide estimated that there were at least 50,000 persons flooding a 300-yard-long section of the wall the other day. Just finding an opening to snap a photograph required some fancy steps. "We are accustomed to such numbers, but perhaps you are not," Ginny said. "Please be careful." And then with a smile, she added: "And please be patient." Long-ago emperors built the corridor along the wall to accommodate five cavalry horses abreast. They never planned for tourists.

Things have changed. Now Chinese families throng the wall as if it were a gateway to Disneyland. Nonstop caravans of tour buses with Chinese passengers fill acres of parking lots by the wall.

Finding space on the wall wasn't much of a struggle for foreign visitors a decade or so ago. Back then, few Chinese citizens were able to go touring in their own country. Things have changed. Now Chinese families throng the wall as if it were a gateway to Disneyland. Nonstop caravans of tour buses with Chinese passengers fill acres of parking lots by the wall. Despite the firm hand of China's masters, many Chinese are flirting with capitalism. At several points during the 47-mile drive from Beijing to Badaling, the best place to walk the wall, are roadside stands called "free markets." Carts and bicycles are heaped with lettuce, corn, celery, cabbage, chickens and pigs. "Food from the 'free markets' is fresher—and cheaper," Ginny says. "Cold beer and Coca-Cola," reads a sign. "Oh, what have we wrought?" an American traveler wonders. Meanwhile, Beijing (pop. 9 million) is budding with new luxury hotels. One recent evening in the lobby of the posh China World Hotel an Asian businessman was sipping a martini with a cellular telephone to his ear. A string

Continued on page 2



The Great Wall of China is one of the most popular attractions for Chinese and foreign tourists.

Photo by Patricia Gonzales

Perpetual Motion

By Patricia Gonzales

Copley News Service

B EIJING—Change is what's happening—and fast—in China today. For instance, it's hard to imagine that in 1983 there were only 400 vehicles in all of Beijing.

Then, bicycles owned the streets, hands down, but little more than a decade later, motorists whizz around on freeways, called "out roads." Thousands of cars now clog the roads in and around the city. China is a country in perpetual motion.

Two-wheel and three-wheel bicycles are still used today for transporting people and every kind of goods imaginable, but they

The only man-made structure that can be seen from space, the wall is a two-hour drive north from Beijing to Badaling.

have to fight for space with taxis, buses, private cars and trucks. The bike's dominance is gone as China shifts into a more materialistic way of life.

The Chinese seem to want to switch from socialism to capitalism while still maintaining the social stability that will provide opportu-

nities for personal amenities. According to Michael Sachs, president/general manager of GTE China, China today is very different from 1983, when he first arrived. Beijing didn't even have hotels for foreign businessmen at that time, and he had to stay in an underground bunker-hospital turned into a guest house.

To provide service of the quality expected by tourists and business travelers alike, hotels such as the China World Trade, part of the Shangri-La Hotel chain, have management-training centers in joint venture with the China Tourism Institute. Shangri-La trains managerial staff to become the most effective managers possible, with a "customer service" attitude to be passed on to the rest of the hotel chain's Chinese staff when they return from training.

From bunkers to today's hotel accommodations is nothing short of miraculous. There are now almost 3,000 hotels with more than 400,000 hotel rooms, and expansion continues throughout China.

China has always seemed a bit mysterious, sealed off behind the "bamboo curtain" for so many years (only 470,000 U.S. visitors in 1994), but now foreign tourism is welcome. Beijing is an exciting city to discover with so many places foreign visitors have only read about now accessible.

Of course, the Great Wall, built to keep out foreign invaders, is now a leading tourist attraction. The only man-made structure that can be seen from space, the wall is a two-hour drive north from Beijing to Badaling. There is a small entrance fee, but here the wall has been restored, and handrails have been installed for safety. However, if you walk far enough, you will come to sections of the wall that have not been restored. It's pretty rough going but well

If You Go

VISAS:
Visas are required and can be obtained from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China or a Chinese consulate. Visa forms are available from any consular office.

TIPPING:
Officially prohibited in China, but customs on tipping are changing and may vary with the circumstances. Inexpensive gifts in show appreciation are acceptable.

GETTING THERE:
A popular jumping-off point is Hong Kong. Dragonair has direct flights daily from Hong Kong to most major cities in China. Direct flights are also offered by Air China.

WHEN TO GO:
May, September and October are the peak tourist months. Off-season, with unbelievably low rates, is from late November through the winter.

GETTING AROUND:
Most travelers find group tours preferable because they include air tickets, hotels, sightseeing, transportation and English-speaking guides. However, it is possible to travel independently as a FIT (Foreign Independent Traveler) if you speak enough Chinese to get along.

worth the extra effort.

A variety of restaurants, "I Climbed the Wall" T-shirts, or your picture taken on a slightly moldy camel, with the wall as a backdrop, are all here. The camels symbolize Marco Polo's exploration of China.

A second site for viewing the wall has been opened at Mutianyu. Although a little farther from Beijing, it's less crowded.

Tiananmen Square, covering 100 acres, has always been the gathering place for important events. On the east side of the square are the History Museum and Museum of the Chinese Revolution.

your hotel's address in Chinese for when you wish to return.

Each year, more foreigners will be discovering China's allure and seeing things they had only read about before. My one trip didn't scratch the surface of things to do and see, so I have an excuse to return one day.

Pat Gonzales is a Copley News Service vice president and travel writer.



Photo by Stanton H. Pasty

An American visitor pauses to take a snapshot during a crowded walk along the Great Wall of China.

Great Wall From page 1

quintet was playing "Turkey in the Straw." And in the hotel dining room, where American passengers from the Holland America cruise ship Rotterdam were gathered, there was a four-foot-high carving of the Statue of Liberty—in lard.

Shops around the hotel were crammed with furs, jewelry and famous-label silk scarves. Major credit cards accepted, of course. Meanwhile, the Chinese, with some leisure time on their hands, are taking to the travel trail.

That brings us back to the human traffic jam at the Great Wall. Our motorcoach from Beijing parks on a narrow street near the wall. Crowds surge. The noise level is somewhere near rock-concert volume.

"Stay together, please, and don't get lost!" the guide shouts. Ah, a landmark to guide on for finding the bus later: Across the street is a plaster statue of—of all people—Colonel Sanders, the late fried-chicken mogul.

Then you merge, shoulder to shoulder, into a river of people, headed for a slow shuffle on the Great Wall. It's a contact sport.

Drums pound. Squeaky flutes of a traveling circus walk like wounded critters. Hawkers yell, "One dollah—hey, one dollah, OK?"

Finally, you reach the wall. Far above, over the heads of those plodding ahead, there is a series of picturesque watchtowers. Think of the stretches between towers as challenge laps.

The grade is steep, steeper than expected. The first quarter-mile or so, the guide says, is equivalent to climbing a seven-story building. "You must be careful not to overdo," Ginny urges. "We don't want you to have a heart attack."

It's likely nobody would notice, at least for awhile. There is no way a heart-failure victim could fall; chances are, his limp body would just be pushed along by the crowd.

After a Great Wall encounter, the questions begin: "How far did you get?"

"All the way to the second tower," says one visitor.

"Well, I made it about halfway between the second and third towers," says another.

"I got claustrophobic and got out of there," says a grandfather.

"When are we going to stop for some serious shopping at a Friendship Store?" his wife asks.

(Friendship Store: that's a Chinese supermarket where purchases must be in foreign currency, hard currency, that is).

"I thought this was a cultural tour," a friend says.

"You must be joking—it's a shopping tour, if I have my way," she responds.

"She'll have her way," her husband sighs.

POINTERS FOR CONQUERING THE GREAT WALL:

- Wear shoes that grip well on slippery surfaces.
- Beware of pickpockets. Strap on a tummy-pack instead of carrying a purse.
- Climb with a companion, in case of accident.
- Be aware that descending the "promenade" along the wall can be more demanding than the ascent. There are steep sections where one should grip a hand rail. Youngsters running recklessly down the wall are like out-of-control bowling balls.
- Remember how to find your way back to the Colonel Sanders statue.
- Have fun.
- Quo vadis, Marco Polo.

Stanton H. Pasty, a Vancouver, Washington, writer, was a recent visitor to China.



Photo by Stanton H. Pasty

A hawker tempts travelers with colorful appetizing lists.

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To Our Readers

The Advertising Department

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Bridging the Generation Gap

By Marcia Schmedler

Universal Press Syndicate

Grandparents and their grandkids—particularly those separated by far-flung families, divorce or busy schedules—often find that vacationing together creates deep bonds and lasting memories.

But too many grandparents go on automatic pilot and simply head to a theme park or similar attraction that leaves them with aching feet, terminal boredom and a frustrated and fidgety kid after.

Grandparents may take the youngster to places they find fascinating, believing the grandchild's attention will be equally riveted. I remember being hailed as a 10-year-old on a cross-country trip to the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, knowing little about American history and caring less about military strategy. I remained glassy-eyed for the entire week's vacation.

When the right grandparent-grandchild destination is chosen, both generations come home with stories about the fun and experiences they had—together and individually.

The choices are as varied as the combined inter-generational imaginations. They range from exploring big cities to campouts in the wilderness.

Here are some suggestions to get the travel juices flowing.

DIG IN THE DIRT

Not just any dirt, but the dirt that engulfed 12th- and 13th-century Anasazi villages after the culture's mysterious disappearance centuries ago. Grandparents, with grandchildren in 7th grade and up, are regular participants in the annual family week of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center each August in southwest Colorado.

Learn excavation techniques in a simulated dig and try your hand at lab work, perhaps sorting and washing

Grandparents may take the youngster to places they find fascinating, believing the grandchild's attention will be equally riveted.

broken artifacts. At a replica of an Anasazi pit house, try such ancient household chores as grinding corn. On two of the days, assist professional archeologists in their digs, winding up with a guided visit to Mesa Verde National Park, where you'll stay in hogan-style cabins.

GO ON A SAFARI

If a trip to Africa would destroy your budget, try Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Sleep in comfortable air-conditioned tents with bathrooms, and spend three days exploring 3,000 acres of Texas savannah with naturalist guides.

Fossil Rim breeds endangered rhinoceros, cheetah, giraffe, zebra, addax antelope and wildebeest. You'll also spot such non-African animals as llamas, axis and

sika deer, maned wolf, margay, red wolf and dozens of other species. After your safari, spend a day walking in the tracks of the "has-beens," extinct dinosaurs, at nearby Dinosaur Valley State Park.

FISHING

Stay in a lakeside cabin with a fireplace, spot moose, eat gourmet meals in a lodge and let a guide take you to secluded corners teeming with fish. Gunflint Lodge in northern Minnesota's Boundary Waters,

which already has senior programs, can customize one of them to include grandchild.

Also popular among the intergenerational set are wilderness canoe trips, with one grandparent, one grandchild and one guide per canoe.

Gunflint will provide the tents, sleeping bags and food. Start and end your wilderness excursion with nights at Gunflint—including hot showers and comfortable beds.

HIT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

Nobody says you have to set foot inside a casino in Las Vegas, even though you take advantage of cheap air-hotel packages to this glitzy Nevada gaming center. Food costs can be dirt cheap, too, particularly if you fuel up at buffets.

There are plenty of non-gambling things to do with the grandkids: Visit a chocolate factory or children's museum. Tour Hoover Dam, Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon. Take a day trip to Death Valley or air tour to the Grand Canyon. Shop at the glitzy

malls. See a dolphin show and Siegfried & Roy's white tigers at the Mirage. Or just ogle the outdoor neon and laser spectacle at night.

GO TO CAMP

Elderhostel, a non-profit organization that links people 55 and older with inexpensive, short-term academic programs, adds more intergenerational programs each year. At Camp Ocala 4-H, sponsored by the University of Florida in Gainesville, grandchildren ages 9 to 12 (one per grandparent, please) explore Ocala National Forest, where black bears and red cockaded woodpeckers roam. Housing is rustic, spacious, air-conditioned and with private baths for each family.

On a pristine, 450-acre lake surrounded by pine forests, swamps and springs, the two generations can enjoy owl prowls and campfire programs and learn about endangered species, forest management and wetland ecosystems.

RAFT THE ROGUE

This scenic waterway in the Oregon Cascades is a popular route for family river adventures. It's exciting, it's wet and it's safe. With Echo: The Wilderness Company, you camp in tents and sleeping bags, and the staff does the cooking and cleanup.

Many rafting outfitters welcome families with children, but among Echo's guides is a "fun director" who'll keep the kids going when Grandma or Grandpa wants a break. Four to five hours a day on the river leaves time for short hikes to waterfalls and forests, wildlife watching, swimming or just skipping rocks.

Checking The Details

Most grandparents invite one grandchild along at a time (sometimes one per grandparent) so they can focus on getting to know each other. Sometimes the trip is a gift.

Escorted grandparent-grandchild tours, such as those offered by Grandtravel or more budget-conscious companies, are relatively scarce. Some tour operators (and fellow travelers) don't mind if you bring grandchildren along on regular tours. But others do, so check before you sign up. Such trips are probably inappropriate for preschoolers and those in primary grades.

Don't hesitate to go on outdoor trips, but be sure the one you choose is geared to the level of physical activity you and your grandchild can handle.

Some organizations, such as Gunflint Lodge, will tailor a vacation based on activities you and your grandchild prefer.

Some cities offer grandparents and grandchildren a variety of activities, including children's programs at museums, zoos, kid-friendly dining, shopping, and theater and music designed for young people. There's a proliferation of guidebooks aimed at family travel to cities and their surrounding areas.

Get your grandchild involved in planning and preparing for a trip as soon as possible. Bookstores and libraries are sources of fiction and nonfiction children's books about the place you're going. If the child is old enough, let him or her read about things to do and choose some of the sights you'll visit.

With the child, talk ahead of time about what you'll do in case certain problems arise: homesickness, grandparents who tire earlier than the grandchild or vice versa, or differing bedtimes.

Such planning will help make a trip together run more smoothly.

Contacts

Echo: The Wilderness Company, 6529 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California 94609-1113; (001) 510/652-1600.

Elderhostel: Third Floor, 75 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-1941.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center; P.O. Box 2189, Glen Rose, Texas 76043. Grandtravel; Suite 706, 6900 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815; (001) 301/398-0790.

Gunflint Lodge; HC-64, Box 750, Grand Marais, Minnesota. 55604; (001) 218/388-2294.

Las Vegas Convention/Visitors Authority, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109-9096; (001) 702/892-0711.



Grandparents and grandkids get down and dirty, learning excavation techniques during family week at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado.

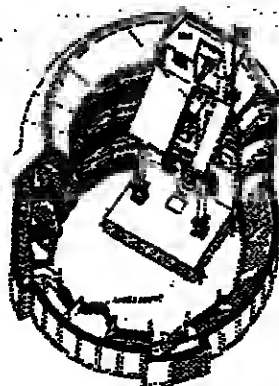
To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

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How to Travel with a Disabled Companion

By Jane Danielson

Copley News Service

A vacation furnishes a special opportunity for friends and family to spend quality time together. And when traveling with someone disabled, companionship is often a necessity. You'll be presented with certain challenges that often depend on the type of disability, associated problems and financial resources.

Here are some proven tips to make a vacation with the disabled traveler rewarding for everyone. Make the trip last as long as possible. The time spent traveling is not as important as the time you spend together. Planning is half the fun. Write ahead for information on your destination and make up a daily "countdown" checklist lead-

specify whether you wish smoking or non-smoking accommodations.

Plan ahead for food restrictions/requirements. With advance notice, most cruise companies and airlines are happy to accommodate travelers with special dietary needs. If medications need to be taken with food, make sure arrangements are made to have meals at regular times. A package of crackers in your pocket is a great fallback.

Pack two small suitcases (rather than one large overstuffed one). Bring a small cart or travel carrier for luggage. Check your luggage at curbside when flying to avoid waiting in line with your bags. Make sure you have a carry-on bag for any needed medication.

Use ground transportation, whenever possible. Getting from one airport gate to another or going through lines at tourist attractions can use up everyone's energy. If the disabled traveler is not already using a wheelchair, ask ahead of time that



ing up to the day of departure. Always take a camera or camcorder so memories and pictures can be shared later.

Create an itinerary and give a copy to each traveler. Planning ahead avoids confusion and anxiety en route. Be sure to include all transportation and hotel information. Schedules can be formal or casual as the trip dictates, but remember that flexibility is important.

Develop a budget and create a travel fund. Estimate costs for shared expenses (ground transportation, accommodation and activities) and collect money in advance. Designate one person to be in charge of the money. When making reservations for hotels, transportation and activities, ask if there is a disabled discount—many such discounts include co-travelers also.

Keep the first day short. Preparation for travel can often be confusing, anxiety-inducing and tiring. Anticipation keeps many travelers awake the night before departure. A short first day allows time for unforeseen delays and eliminates the probability of being worn out before the vacation begins.

Pack an easy-to-read digital alarm clock. Dark hotel rooms, small windows in cruise cabins or unfamiliar guest rooms can make it difficult to see a watch. An inexpensive digital clock is easy to read and gets everyone up on time.

Reserve the type of hotel room you need. Rooms on the main floor or close to the elevators are more convenient for the disabled traveler. Many hotels and motels have especially modified rooms, which reduces frustration for everyone. Ask ahead. When making reservations, be sure to

one be made available.

Make sure there is sufficient "alone time." Build in time for the more active travelers to burn off some energy and time so those who want or need to rest may do so. Space and seclusion allow individuals time to rejuvenate and thereby better enjoy the time spent together.

The disabled traveler does not have to crimp the style for others in the party. Nor does the disabled traveler have to dictate all the procedures of the vacation. Organization is the key to all successful trips, but it is especially important to the disabled traveler. Planning ahead and anticipating special needs before they become problems ensures that everyone has an enjoyable vacation.

Jane Danielson is a freelance travel writer.

TRAVELER

PRODUCED BY:
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SYNDICATE



Ancient arch in Seville, Spain, frames Gloria Asbel: You need the right temperament for solo travel, "but you certainly don't have to be afraid of it."

Photo by Gloria Asbel

GOING SOLO

Marcia Schnedler

Universal Press Syndicate

Neither age nor language turned out to be a barrier when 68-year-old Gloria Asbel decided to spend six months on Spain's Costa del Sol last winter.

Most senior travelers planning such extended winter-time stays overseas go with tour operators.

But Asbel, a magazine

food writer from Kalamazoo, Michigan, decided she'd rather find a place to stay on her own, instead of booking a room in an apartment-hotel filled with other travelers.

"I got into this because I'd made an application to the Peace Corps," she explains. "I was so positive they'd be thrilled to have me. I went ahead and leased my house for two years. So I ended up homeless when they turned me down. I thought I might as well go somewhere warm for the winter."

Asbel had already scheduled a November trip to Morocco with a tour operator. She decided to go from there to Torremolinos on Spain's south coast, where she and her late husband, Joe, had rented a condominium with friends 25 years earlier.

On her Morocco tour, she met a guide who lived in Torremolinos. After she arrived in Torremolinos and checked into a hotel, she called him.

"He had an acquaintance with an apartment on the eighth floor of a building, a block and a half from the beach," Asbel says. "It had a big balcony with dining table and chairs that overlooked the Mediterranean. There were two bedrooms, beautiful tile floors, a modern bath and a gorgeous garden and pool."

Rent was only \$350 a month, plus \$50 for utilities—about half the cost of a studio apartment in a hotel used by the tour operator or what she'd have paid in Kalamazoo.

"Not everyone will be lucky enough to meet someone who can help them," Asbel says. "But they can use an English-language newspaper that has pages and pages of ads for apartments and condos. No matter where you're going, find the English language newspaper and subscribe in advance."

From her home base, Asbel explored the coast and other areas in Southern Spain. Sometimes she was

own cooking. Canned and boxed foods cost more in Spain than in the United States, she found, but cooking from scratch cost less.

"A weekly market had wonderful vegetables, hams and other foods," she says. "Seafood is a specialty."

She dined at cafés, restaurants and bars, also finding them excellent spots to meet people.

"The whole coast is loaded with Brits, plus lots of Dutch and Danish. Anyone who speaks English will not have a problem."

She sought out budget restaurants where a one- or two-course meal with a glass of wine cost \$4 to \$5. Bars also served as a place to watch TV news as did some hotels.

"My apartment had neither a telephone nor a television," Asbel says, "and I should have thought about that in advance. There were phones on every street for me to call out, but nobody could call me. So I found a place that sends and receives faxes."

"I'm a news junkie, and got most of what I needed by buying the International Herald Tribune."

Asbel, who felt comfortable and secure as an older woman traveling alone, believes that most seniors can plan their own extended stay, as she did. In fact, Asbel sold her house after she returned from Spain and began planning an extended stay in Costa Rica this coming winter.

"When people say, 'You're so brave to have done that,' I tell them the Costa del Sol is just like Miami Beach, with high-rises and tourists and everything you could want," she says. "You have to have the temperament to go off on your own, but you certainly don't have to be afraid to do it."

For More Information

Many senior travelers planning an extended stay overseas prefer to use a tour operator to find an apartment or hotel and learning the ropes of living in a foreign country by themselves.

When you go with a tour operator, you normally stay in a hotel or apartment-hotel with other travelers. With some companies, including Grand Circle and Saga Holidays, a program director is available to give advice on restaurants, shopping, transportation, sight-seeing and other areas.

Often, the company includes such special events as a cocktail party or dinner, plus an introductory sight-seeing tour. You can buy sightseeing programs from the tour operator instead of a local travel agent, or go on your own. Most meals may be in the package, as well as airfare.

Grand Circle Travel has extended-stay programs in Spain, Portugal, Mallorca, Turkey, Greece and Oaxaca,

Mexico. It also offers two- to three-week programs in Switzerland; Switzerland, Italy and Australia; Italy; England, Scotland and Wales; Ireland; London and Paris. On most of these later trips, additional weeks can be added. Grand Circle's programs include a "Discovery Series" of lectures on the area's culture, history and social issues or meetings with local people. Contact Grand Circle, 347 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02219, (001) 617/350-7500.

Saga Holidays' extended-stay lineup includes Malta; Madeira; Taormina, Sicily; Mallorca; mainland Portugal; mainland Spain; the French Riviera and Costa Rica. Like Grand Circle, some cultural excursions, activities and entertainment are included. Some departures have no single supplements. Saga Holidays, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, (001) 617/282-2262.

accompanied by areas in Southern Spain. Sometimes she was accompanied by friends and family who visited during her extended stay.

They reached the Alhambra in Granada, probed the Arab baths in Ronda and explored the small whitewashed towns in the mountains north of the Costa del Sol.

"Buses are very modern, clean and efficient and get you to all the cities in Andalusia," Asbel says. "A commuter-style railroad runs along the coast. It's fast and cheap and they announce stops in English and Spanish."

When she wasn't traveling, Asbel did some of her



The quake that took New York

There is panic in the streets as the mighty skyscrapers shake. Subway tunnels crumble and entire apartment blocks topple to the ground. Millions are dead, injured or trapped in the rubble.

It sounds like the script for the latest Hollywood disaster movie. In fact, a growing number of experts now believe that New York could be heading for a major earthquake.

Cameron's Line may not yet enjoy the same celebrity status as Los Angeles's San Andreas Fault, but its impact could be as devastating for New York City. It is one of at least four geological faults that cross Manhattan, threatening one of the most crowded and congested cities in the world.

Records show that Manhattan has suffered two major earthquakes, 140 years apart, since the city was established by the British and the Dutch in the 18th century. The second was in 1884, suggesting that the city should start seriously preparing for the next big one.

Cameron's Line runs from the Bronx in the north of the city, down the East River and past Staten Island. The rock foundation on which much of Manhattan is built is split by a number of rifts and fault lines.

Geologists now believe that the epicenter of any future earthquake will be in the Newark Basin, to the south and east of New York. In the past 25 years, they have detected dozens of small tremors in this area. Dr. Alan Klaus, a geophysicist at Boston College, says he believes these show that the land is moving.

"Where the small earthquakes are illuminating where the big earthquakes are going to happen," he says. "Scientifically, I am becoming more and more convinced that this cluster of seismicity around the Newark Basin is because that's an active area. I think it's real."

The scale of the destruction is almost impossible to predict. The two previous quakes are thought to have been around five on the Richter scale, and they caused little structural damage. But the city has grown beyond recognition in the past century. Large parts of it are built on landfill sites, a process invented under British colonial rule which has increased Manhattan's size by perhaps a third.

Landfills, where refuse is dumped inside protective wooden foundations, are particularly vulnerable to liquefaction, a deadly side effect of earthquake vibration that turns apparently solid earth into quicksand.

Much of Manhattan to the south of Wall Street is built on landfills, including the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. While the Twin Towers would remain standing during even the most severe earthquake, plate-glass windows and debris would rain down into the streets below.

Electrical fires fueled by gas escaping from the city's ancient gas pipes would rapidly turn them, and dozens of other skyscrapers, into towering infernos. Firemen would be virtually helpless because the city depends on just two water mains, both built before World War II.

If the quake hit at the height of the business day, the death toll could run into thousands.

Other high-risk structures include the Brooklyn Bridge, the oldest in the city, which threatens to collapse into the East River.

New York's famous brownstone apartment blocks are little more than brick walls with floors supported by wooden beams. Even the slightest seismic movement would dislodge these beams, collapsing each building like a house of cards.

Dr. Jacob Klaus, a seismologist at Columbia



In the worst instance of an earthquake, says seismologist Dr. Jacob Klaus, 'New York as a cultural, business, population institution will not exist.'

University, believes that not only is there a high probability of an earthquake in the next 50 years, but that there is no reason why it should not be even stronger than those already recorded.

Klaus says that the critical point for serious damage would be an earthquake measured at 5.8.

Anything above 6 would cause destruction on the scale seen in the Japanese city of Kobe last year, another center which had not experienced a major earthquake for over a century.

In the worst instance, Klaus simply says: "Forget it. There will be no Metropolitan Museum of Art, no Lincoln Center, New York City, no cultural, business, population institution will not exist."

At least six of Manhattan's major hospitals are in areas where the destruction would be the worst, as are Kennedy and La Guardia airports. Vast open spaces such as Central Park, although it would take at least 48 hours for res-

cuers to reach the city in large numbers. After the Kobe earthquake, New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani ordered an investigation into how the city would cope in a similar situation.

Although the police say they could handle a minor quake, widespread looting and public disorder would follow anything larger, especially since most officers live outside Manhattan and would be unable to reach the city if bridges and roads were badly damaged.

The greatest long-term damage would be economic. New York's economy is worth \$1 trillion. Losing just 1 percent of that would cost the city \$10 billion. With Wall Street out of business for even a few days, the impact on stock markets would be incalculable. World insurance markets would be close to collapse.

Most New Yorkers remain indifferent to the danger. Despite the falling crime rate, life is chaotic enough. Surely earthquakes, like sunshine, belong to California?

(The Sunday Telegraph)

Looking at the Bible through a woman's eyes

SUE FISHKOFF

When Alicia Ostriker sat down 11 years ago to jot down her feelings about the Book of Job, she had no idea it would set her on a decade-long path of biblical revisionism.

She is an accomplished poet with seven books of verse to her credit, including *The Imaginary Lover*, which won her the 1986 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. A noted critic of women's poetry, she also teaches English and creative writing at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Few things seemed less likely in her professional career than writing about the Bible.

"I was a third generation atheist-socialist," she remarks, describing her Depression-era childhood in Brooklyn. "I was not taught the Bible in any authoritative fashion. Maybe that's why when I came to read it during my college years - for pleasure, not for any class - it was as if I'd found something that I instinctively felt belonged to me. It was my story, the story of my fathers and mothers."

Ostriker made her fourth trip to Israel last month, lecturing at Haifa and Tel Aviv universities and the American Cultural Center about her poetry and her 1994 book, *The Nakedness of the Fathers*.

This book is a fascinating, provocative journey in which Ostriker retells biblical tales from the point of view of the sisters, wives and mothers of the patriarchs, often resetting the stories in today's world. She interweaves these fantasies, fables, psychological studies and critical analyses with memories of her own childhood, as if by heightening the ordinariness and the repetition of human relationships she is underlining the vitality and humane aspects of those ancient Jewish tales.

Her stories, at first glance, can appear flippant, as when King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba coolly discuss sex.

This and similar stories have caused her to be accused of creating "anti-Jewish" works, a charge she dismisses as nonsense.

"My work, and that of other women doing similar biblical based work in Midrash or criticism, is just the tip of a quickly growing iceberg," she says. "If tradition stagnates, it dies."

"The future of Jewish creativity is in women's hands now. The Orthodox are stuck. They've painted themselves into a corner that gets narrower and narrower. A breath of fresh air is needed, and women are producing a lot of it."

As a feminist poet and critic, Ostriker naturally used that same analytic telescope on biblical passages. When she decided to write about Job, for example, she was motivated by wondering how Job's wife felt about God's "reward" for Job's faithfulness.

"God killed off her 10 children, and then sent her 10 more to reward Job, as if that was sufficient replacement for the 10 that died," Ostriker says. "Suddenly my pen began to write on its own, moved by the tears of thousands of years of pain and anger. Job's wife knew there was no justice here, that God is not just to women and children. I imagined, in my writing, that Job's wife felt her pain clearly enough to challenge God."

The Jewish tradition of arguing with God is close to Ostriker's own heart. That's why her favorite biblical figure is Jacob. He appears in her retelling as a flawed and doubting, but honest and vital man, animated with the full range of human emotions as he wrestles with God's angel.

"I also like Solomon," she notes. "His reign was a reign of peace. And he let his wives and concubines worship their own gods and goddesses. It's easier to have religious tolerance when you have peace."

She quotes Solomon's dedication speech for the First Temple, where he noted that although the temple is built for God, it could never physically contain His greatness.

"I'd like to damn that into the head of every fundamentalist," she fumes. "Our petty human structures can't possibly 'contain' God. At most, He might visit."



Alicia Ostriker: You have to recognize what it is you are afraid to think and write, and then go out and do it. (Israel Sun)

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THE NAKEDNESS of the Fathers ends with a chapter called "Intensive Care," which depicts God as an impossibly old man lying in a hospital bed, hooked up to monitors and an oxygen machine, surrounded by pesky reporters who want to know the details of his will and the difference between constabulation and transubstantiation.

By the end of the chapter, we learn from two nurses gossiping in the hospital cafeteria that God is not dying - he's pregnant.

"He's pregnant with the Shechina, the Goddess He swallowed back in pre-history," Ostriker explains, referring to feminist history which holds that Judaism and later Christianity and Islam replaced early matriarchal religious systems. "But the goddess didn't die. She's there inside his belly. When you see traces of female power in the text, you are seeing her kicking."

Of course, she adds, much of this is metaphorical. But it also places a real task before women.

"Our job as feminists - as human beings - is to midwife that suppressed aspect of divinity that's been out of sight for 6,000 years," she says. "What we understand now about God, the soul, good and evil has been filtered through men's spiritual imagination. When women's spiritual imagination has contributed as much as men's, we'll know a lot more. It won't happen tomorrow, but the process has certainly begun."

Until she started her biblical writings in 1985, Ostriker says she had little Jewish identity.

She had a lot of catching up to do. When she began studying the Bible, she joined an intensive Hebrew course at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Today, she and a study part-

ner learn Torah at Rutgers.

But in her own household, she admits that she, her husband and their three children had been "twice a year" Jews, celebrating only Pessah and the High Holy Days. That's why she was stunned when, 12 years ago, her son Gabriel announced he wanted a bar mitzva.

The local Hillel rabbi agreed to perform the ceremony if she would attend Shabbat services with her son for a full year.

"I was a lot of fun," she admits. "I loved arguing about the week's Torah portion."

This spring, Ostriker's eighth collection of verses, *The Crack in Everything*, will appear. It contains the many poems she wrote before, during and after her 1990 mastectomy.

"The mastectomy poems are all autobiographical," she says. "She got through a range of responses and feelings. There are fantasy poems, like one where I imagine a severed breast floating down a river, like a child calling to its mother. The final poem, however, says that I'm still here, that I don't think about my operation anymore unless people bring it up."

At Rutgers, Ostriker teaches creative writing, women's poetry in English from the 17th century to the present, and a course called "The Bible and Feminist Imagination." She is also the poetry editor of *Lilith* and other women's journals.

"She's done a lot to raise the level of women's poetry through her criticism," says Tel Aviv poet Karen Alkalay-Gut, who teaches English literature and poetry at Tel Aviv University. "She's positive and encouraging, yet critical at the same time. She's very interested in discovering and encouraging new women poets and is the focal point of a growing network of new poets. But she has no interest in being politically correct - she's beyond that."

Ostriker insists she gives the same advice to young women poets as to young male poets.

"The first thing you have to do is kill the censor," she tells them. "By that I mean the internal censor, which is the writer's true enemy. You have to recognize what it is you are afraid to think and write, and then go out and do it."

Become gifted at being straightforward

Dear Ruthie,
My husband never buys me presents I like. On the other hand, they are always expensive (I usually wish to tear my hair out at the thought of what I could have bought with the money!). The one time I tried to exchange a gift, he got terribly hurt (though I think that I should be just as hurt that he doesn't know me well enough to know what I like).

As my birthday is coming up, I don't know what to do. Dropping hints has never worked before, so I assume it won't help this time, either.

Not Gift-ed
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Not Gift-ed,
If dropping hints has been unsuccessful, why not be straightforward about what you would like for your birthday? It seems that marital tension over giving and receiving presents has taken precedence over the actual act itself.

Not everyone is gifted at gift-giving, particularly when loved ones are the recipients. Sometimes, knowing someone extremely well

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

makes selection so loaded with the desire not to disappoint that judgment becomes jumbled.

You could even suggest shopping for the item together. Make a birthday outing of it. One helpful tidbit: If you approach the subject with humor - rather than accusation - your request will be more likely to be received with grace.

Dear Ruthie,
For the past two months, one of the other of my three children has been ill with the flu and other ailments. Though I am a housewife - and therefore this has not posed a problem for me in terms of being absent from work - I am miserable at being trapped in the house for days on end.

My husband does not arrive home until after 7 p.m., and no friends wish to risk having their own children get infected. So I am also extremely lonely. It's making me depressed and irritable. What can I do?

Foiled by the Flu
Haifa

Dear Flu-Foiled,
There's nothing you can do

about the flu, but there is something you can do about being "trapped."

No matter how tired you feel at the end of the day, make it a point to go out in the evening (with husband or without), either for entertainment or to take a walk in the fresh air.

Knowing that at 7:30 p.m. the door to the "sick bay" will be open can give you something to look forward to during the long hours preceding. Having a reason to get dressed (and generally "put yourself together") can do wonders to uplift spirits.

Dear Ruthie,
I am in my fifties and have never been married, although I've had my share of love affairs/relationships over the years. The reason I never married is simple: I never could be absolutely certain that a particular woman would be right for me.

Currently I am involved with a woman with whom I am very content. She wants us to get married. Again, the old hesitation has emerged. I do not want to lose this

woman, but how can I be sure this time?

Undecided Unmarried
Rama Hasharon

Dear Un-Un,
Let me reveal an earth-shattering hit of news: nobody can be certain before entering a marriage of a future spouse's suitability. Making someone a permanent fixture in your life is the only way to test whether the right choice was made. Even then, much of how you view your spouse has to do with how badly you want the marriage to work.

Your hesitation is a form of anxiety. But anxiety has a way of disappearing once an actual move is made. The choice you must make here, mainly, is whether you wish to marry at all. If not, no woman will ever really be the "right" one. The fact that you do not want to lose this woman may be the best sign that you wish to "join forces" with her.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

City Bank office to open here

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CITY Bank, the largest bank in North America, will announce next week the opening of its Israeli office, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

City bank deputy chairman of the board William Rhodes is expected to arrive Monday to officially announce the opening.

During his visit, Rhodes is expected to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and the heads of the leading financial institutions.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said City Bank's decision

to set up shop here was taken after several months of negotiations with the central bank. Banking sources said Citibank's decision is mainly due to positive developments in the economy and Israel's business potential.

Frenkel said the central bank places a strong emphasis on strengthening the financial relationship between the local economy and financial markets worldwide.

Banking sources forecasted City Bank's arrival here will encourage other American banks to follow suit in upcoming years.

Fed cuts interest rates by quarter percentage point

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter percentage point yesterday for the second time in two months in a bid to hinder the softening economy and guard against a recession.

The move lowered the key federal funds rate, which banks charge each other for overnight loans, to 5.25 percent from 5.50%.

It also lowered the discount rate, which the Fed charges on its loans to banks, to 5.0% from 5.25%.

This is the first time the US central bank has cut its largely symbolic discount rate since July 1992.

The Fed reduced the more significant federal funds rate just last month, however.

The vote in favor of the discount rate cut was 5-0, the Fed said.

"Moderating economic expansion in recent months has reduced potential inflationary pressures going forward," it said in a statement. "With price and cost trends already subdued, a slight easing of monetary policy is consistent with contained inflation and sustainable growth."

The rate cut should mean lower borrowing costs for everyone from credit card users to companies financing needed inventories with loans from banks.

The move, which had been widely expected on Wall Street, took place against a background of slowing economic growth and moderate inflation.

Retail sales rose a mere 0.3% in December during the crucial Christmas season, while producer prices edged up just 0.1% after taking out volatile food and energy costs.

Analysts said the central bank

had little to lose and potentially much to gain from reducing rates now.

The lower rates should give a fillip to consumer confidence, which sagged this month as huge corporate layoffs took their toll.

The Fed move is good news for US President Bill Clinton, who is counting on a healthy economy to boost his chances for re-election in November.

It also will not hurt Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's chances for a third term at the helm when his tenure expires on March 2. Although Clinton is widely expected to renominate Greenspan, he has not done so yet.

After tightening credit steadily in 1994 and into early 1995 to head off inflation, the Fed has now reduced the federal funds rate three times since last July, by a total of three-quarters of a percentage point.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Toddler software developer Comfy has announced that Japanese toy firm Tomy, which last November received distribution rights to the Comfy Keyboard and related software in the UK, has expanded those rights to include France. *Rachel Neiman*

The Israel Electric Corporation is due to meet today with representatives of Mid Atlantic Corp. The two firms are close to an agreement concerning a \$300-million investment in a 150-megawatt power station, located in the Negev. The station would be fueled by oil shale found in the Mishor Rotem region. *Rachel Neiman*

SystemSoft announced yesterday it will add TrueFFS software from M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneers to support flash memory cards into its next major release. M-Systems and SystemSoft also announced a cooperative marketing agreement to promote wide adoption of the File Transition Layer (FTL) format by the PC industry. FTL was jointly proposed as a protocol by M-Systems and SCM Microsystems in 1993. *Rachel Neiman*

'Tnuva dairy division to undergo major restructuring quickly'

RACHEL NEIMAN

TNUVA's dairy products division will undergo major restructuring "within a short period of time," recently appointed general manager Arik Reichman announced yesterday.

Following restructuring, Tnuva will become a jointly-owned entity, whose shareholders will be able to trade in their shares.

All Tnuva dairy product activities will be reorganized into a single framework called Tnuva's Dairy and Marketing Complex under Yitzhak Lidor, who will assume the post of general manager April 1.

Lidor is one of the founders of drip irrigation pioneer Netafim and gas company Alon.

Former dairy division head Yossele Yudovich has tendered his resignation.

Lidor also takes over the duties of managing director Yitzhak Landesman, who will continue to serve in Tnuva's senior management as board chairman of subsidiaries Off-Tov, Kar Pri, Off-Yerushalayim and Off-Tov distributor KIR - as well as a board member of Coop Tsafo.

He will also be responsible for allocation of properties.

Tnuva is the country's largest producer of meat products, Reichman said, but pointed out that as they make up only some 10% of its total NIS 4.5 billion annual turnover, Landesman's responsibilities were greatly reduced.

Horacio Mosilewski, now general manager of Ma'abarot Products, will join Tnuva's senior management in a yet undefined position.

The final structure of the Complex has not yet been determined but will be divided into five or six departments. All will be presided over by the general manager.

The activities of ice cream companies Snowcrest and Tene Noga will be united.

Reichman estimated the process would take about one year, depending on the time taken to conduct negotiations with shareholders.

Tnuva's shareholders are "amorphous," he admitted, made up of some 600 cooperatives who have historically used Tnuva for marketing and distribution. Many of those unions have since deteriorated but members continue to supply and profit from Tnuva's network.

The matter is complicated by the fact that according to the kibbutz development agreement, Tnuva shareholders from centrally located kibbutzim will be required to sell up to 50% of their shares to cover outstanding debts. The arrangement does not apply to outlying kibbutzim.

Nonetheless, Reichman said "it is to their advantage as Tnuva's owners to have a recognized property. I also believe a company without a defined ownership cannot survive. We need our shareholders to have a clear, direct economic interest."

Although Tnuva did not reach its goal of 2.5% growth in 1995, revenues were not significantly affected by the tainted milk scandal, Reichman said.

Sales of boxed milk dropped but were offset by sales of fresh milk.

IAI: Test of new UAV successful

STEVE RODAN

ISRAELI Aircraft Industries said yesterday it successfully tested a new unmanned aerial vehicle meant to provide combat intelligence.

The UAV, called Eye-View, has a range of 50 kilometers and a speed of 60 kph, executives said. The wing span is four meters and weighs 15 kilograms.

The UAV is produced by IAI's Malat division and was tested earlier this month.

Executives said its maiden flight lasted 15 minutes and passed all its tests, including for maneuverability and stability.

The Eye-View is for providing combat intelligence and artillery fire adjustments for use by bataif, ion or brigade commanders. It has a special camera and sophisticated avionics, a crew of four for operation and maintenance and can fly for up to four hours.

IAI executives said the Eye-View will be exhibited at this year's Singapore Air Show.

The company also announced a new advanced laser-guided bomb as part of a new generation of

laser weapons, developed by IAI's MBT division. It said the bomb is precise, unaffected by winds and maneuvering targets, with an accuracy of one meter.

IAI also announced the development of new short-range air defense system, MACHBET. It said the system combines the firepower of Stinger missiles and Vulcan guns, capable of attacking low-flying aerial targets, such as helicopters and aircraft.

The system is designed to provide air defense for advancing mobile forces, such as tanks.

The company also said the Chilean Air Force awarded an \$11-million contract to IAI's Bedek group to convert Boeing 707 into air-refueler tanker aircraft.

The contract contains an option for similar conversion of two Lockheed-Martin C-130 aircraft. Bedek will supply conversion kits to the Enaer Chilean aeronautical industry, which will perform the final installation at its facility in Santiago, Chile.

The installation is scheduled to be completed by August.



Tokyo Stock Exchange traders close out the last minutes of the bourse yesterday, as the Nikkei average hit a 19-month intra-day high of 21,021.63. The index finished up 90.30 points, 0.44 percent, at 20,812.74. (Reuters)

Moody's Interbank Service gives mediocre grades to local banks

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAELI banks received mediocre ratings in the first-ever survey of the local banking scene performed by Moody's Interbank Service, a world leader in valuation of financial institutions.

The company has rated the banks according to Bank Financial Strength Ratings (BFSR), based on a scale ranging from A, which represents exceptional, to E - which is very weak.

The survey indicated that Israel Discount Bank and First International Bank have higher BFSR ratings than the country's other large banks. Moody's rated Bank Discount and First International Bank (FIBI) "C" and Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi and United Mizrahi "D+."

Moody's said the ratings reflect a bank's intrinsic strength on a

stand-alone basis and the likelihood that it may require support from a third party in the future.

The ratings do not include any of the banks' autonomous overseas subsidiaries, which may affect the rating of the parent company.

Discount's higher rating reflects its above local-average interest margins, good liquidity, reasonable capitalization and the lack of sizable quantities of potentially bad loans.

Moody's said it is currently uncertain to which extent the bank will be impacted by the Bank of Israel's requirement to sell all or part of its subsidiary Mercantile Discount Bank.

Moody's rating of FIBI shows the bank's strong capital ratios, low level of problematic loans and high profitability.

"During the last five years, FIBI has pursued an aggressive growth strategy designed to increase its market share," the company said. "This strategy has been successful, and the bank now has to decide whether to consolidate its gains or continue

with a policy of balance sheet growth."

Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi's ratings reflect, in part, their large market share, of around 33% and 30% respectively.

Of all the local banks, Moody's emphasized that Bank Hapoalim will be most affected by the Brodet report, which has proposed to force banks to reduce their holdings in nonbanking subsidiaries.

"Nevertheless, we anticipate that the effect on Hapoalim, though negative, will be limited and will not threaten the bank's solvency or undermine its long-term profitability," said Moody's.

Moody's said Bank Leumi's rating reflects the drop in capital market activity following the fall in stock prices during 1994.

"Although capital market activity has started to revive, a return to former levels is not anticipated in the near term, and this will make more difficult the task of increasing overall profitability beyond recent, rather subdued levels," said the rating company.

As for Mizrahi's rating, Moody's said it reflected its valuable franchise among religious clients, and its leading position in Tefahot, its mortgage subsidiary.

Moody's said its assessment of Tefahot, as a major asset to Mizrahi, assumes that capital and other funding flows between Tefahot and other parts of the group will remain unlimited. It also assumes there will be no change in the funding structure of mortgage banks, since the current structure allows banks to operate with low levels of liquidity.

"Should these factors start to change, or should a significant downturn in housing market conditions begin, UMB's rating could be pressured," said Moody's.

Hanegbi threatens to petition court over electricity bill assignment

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Economics Committee chairman Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) yesterday threatened to petition the High Court of Justice if his committee is not given responsibility for preparing the controversial electricity bill for the second and third reading.

On Tuesday, the House Committee decided to assign the bill to the Finance Committee, headed by Gedalya Gal (Lahor), instead.

In a letter to House Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Lahor), Hanegbi noted that electricity has always been considered the purview of the Economics Committee.

According to house rules, he said, bills are supposed to be assigned to their "natural" committee unless there is some good reason for doing otherwise. However, he said, not a single formal reason was given during the House Committee's discussions.

"There is no doubt that the only reason for the House Committee's decision was the government's desire to prevent substantial changes in the government bill," he wrote. "Accordingly, an effort was made to transfer the

bill to a committee which is not chaired by a member of the opposition."

In fact, however, it was Meretz, which opposes the bill in its current form as strongly or more so than the Likud does, which demanded that the bill be sent to the Finance Committee - and it did so because its members trust Gal to give them a fair opportunity to make the substantial changes they desire.

Gal himself is also known to have reservations about the bill in its current form.

However, Hanegbi charged, this decision undermines the house rules, and is a "cynical use of the [government's] parliamentary majority."

Hanegbi noted that his committee has always followed the custom of putting government bills at the top of the committee's agenda, and he promised to do the same with this bill. There is therefore no danger of it being buried, he said.

He therefore asked Goldschmidt to have his committee reconsider its decision on this matter. If this is not done immediately, he said, he will petition the High Court.

Ford Motor profits decline, but exceed expectations

DEARBORN, Michigan (Reuters) - The Ford Motor Co. yesterday reported lower profits for the fourth quarter and all of 1995, but the results nevertheless exceeded Wall Street forecasts, bolstered by strong auto operations in the first half of the year and record results in financial services.

The nation's second-largest automaker predicted gradual improvement in profitability this

year as it completes the launch of several new products that has depressed profits.

Ford said it earned \$660 million, or 49 cents a share, in the fourth quarter, compared with \$1.66, or \$1.47 per share, in the year-ago quarter. Revenues were \$34.5b, up slightly from \$33.6b.

For 1995, Ford reported earnings of \$4.1b, or \$3.58 a share, down 22 percent from a record \$5.3b, or \$4.97 a share, in 1994.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$1.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.500	4.375	4.250
British sterling (£100,000)	4.875	4.610	4.500	4.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.750	1.700	1.650
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250
Yen (¥100 million)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (\$1.96)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Bank of Israel	Rate
U.S. dollar	3.1184	3.1867	3.06	3.2045
German mark	2.0504	2.1242	2.05	2.1400
French franc	0.8087	0.8176	0.81	0.8170
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.1225	2.1536	2.12	2.1530
Dutch guilder	1.8994	1.9298	1.89	1.9290
Swedish krona	0.4774	0.4882	0.47	0.4815
Denmark krone	0.8400	0.8498	0.84	0.8410
British pound	2.2622	2.2927	2.26	2.2920
Canadian dollar	0.8238	0.8346	0.82	0.8310
Australian dollar	2.2622	2.2927	2.26	2.2920
S. African rand	1.0167	1.0311	1.01	1.0310
Belgian franc (F)	2.2725	2.3026	2.27	2.3020
Austrian schilling (S)	1.9487	1.9802	1.94	1.9800
Israeli sheqel (₪)				
Egyptian pound				
Indian rupee	3.8379	3.8929	3.83	3.8920
Thai baht	4.2623	4.3479	4.26	4.3470
Spanish peseta (₧100)	2.4782	2.5182	2.47	2.5180

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

PRIME TARGET 0210
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 30.1.96
Purchase Price: 146.27
Redemption Price: 144.01

למכירה בלבד

PRIME 0210
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 30.1.96
Purchase Price: 108.70
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למכירה בלבד

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NYSE STOCK MARKET

NYSE Composite ... 2,818.12 ... DJ Industrial ... 1,154.71

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial ... DJ Industrial ... DJ Industrial

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100 ... Nikkei 225 ... Hang Seng

Israeli stocks in NY

Amir 1.00 ... Amir 1.00 ... Amir 1.00

ASDAQ / over-the-counter

Amir 1.00 ... Amir 1.00 ... Amir 1.00

Foreign financial data courtesy of ComenStock Trading Ltd.

ComenStock Trading Ltd. (Page 21-Jan-96)

INFLATION

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Dollar cross-rates (US)

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Labor rates

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Foreign financial data courtesy of ComenStock Trading Ltd.

ComenStock Trading Ltd. (Page 21-Jan-96)

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Foreign financial data courtesy of ComenStock Trading Ltd.

ComenStock Trading Ltd. (Page 21-Jan-96)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of multi-sided trading with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

Two-sided trading

Table of two-sided trading with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table of property, building, and agriculture stocks.

Trade & Services

Table of trade and services stocks.

On Exploration

Table of on exploration stocks.

PARALLEL LIST

Table of parallel listed stocks.

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Table of property, building, and agriculture stocks.

Koor leads rise in shares

THE indexes rose yesterday after two days of losses, led by increases in Koor Industries and Makhshim Chemical Works.

Koor Industries was the exchange's most active share, rising 0.5 percent, as NIS 6.1 million worth of shares changed hands.

Koor's American Depository Receipts traded in New York rose 1/4 to 21 on Tuesday.

Koor gained as a result of its American campaign to promote subsidiary company Tadiran Ltd.

Shares in Elite Industries rose 3.25% on Tuesday, the Strauss family - which runs the Strauss dairy firm - announced it had bought a 15% stake in Elite in a bid to broaden its product line.

Investors see Koor as Israel, with the potential of the country, and are just beginning to take positions in it," said Nahum.

The Maof Index rose 0.30 percent, to 219.18, and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.38%, to 208.88.

Of 1,007 issues traded across the exchange, almost three times as many shares rose as fell.

More than NIS 96m. worth of shares traded, NIS 16.6m. below Tuesday's level and about NIS 10 million below the average trading level in January.

The TASE had declined for two days after the Bank of Israel said on Monday that it would raise rates at which it lends to the banks to 14% from 13.7%, effective February 1.

"When rates went up, it was a surprise for everybody," said Nahum. "Now it seems 0.3 points wasn't so sharp."

Gaining shares on the exchange included Makhshim Chemical Works, said Nahum. "Makhshim is a stock foreign investors and institutional investors love," he said.

Shares in Elite Industries rose 3.25% on Tuesday, the Strauss family - which runs the Strauss dairy firm - announced it had bought a 15% stake in Elite in a bid to broaden its product line.

Michael Strauss said the family's investment arm purchased the shares from Elite chairman David Federman for an undisclosed sum. Last week, Federman purchased some 25% of the voting shares in Elite from the British commodities firm E.D. & F. Man for \$44.15m.

Federman and Clal Industries' announced Tuesday that they had broken off negotiations regarding possible collaboration in managing Elite. (Bloomberg)

Late flurry pushes FTSE Index higher

LONDON (Reuters) - A late flurry prompted by stock shortages helped UK shares end at a new record high, after marking time for much of the day ahead of an outcome of the FOMC meeting in the US, dealers said.

The FTSE ended up 24.0 points at 3,759.3, beating the previous high set January 24 of 3,758.2.

FRANKFURT - Shares sprang higher after the Bundesbank sanctioned a bigger-than-expected drop in its main money market rate, sending the blue-chip DAX index to yet another all-time high close.

The 30-share DAX house gained 34.35 points to close at 2,470.14, or up 1.4 percent - its latest in a series of historic highs since the New Year. The market pared its gains in late electronic trading, with the IBIS DAX index closing at 2,463.00.

PARIS - Shares closed higher for a sixth consecutive session, helped by foreign buying late in the day.

The CAC-40 Index finished up 17.90 points, or 0.89%, at 2,021.03. Volume was a heavy FR 7.23 billion due to expiry-related arbitrage trading.

ZURICH - Shares kept their middle levels to close higher, albeit below intra-day highs, as they were supported by firming futures on federal bonds. Overnight gains on Wall Street, the stronger trend in the US dollar and technical factors also helped.

Trading activity slackened off after a strong beginning, due to a lack of follow-through buying. The all-share SPI index gained 6.80 points to 2,122.15 points.

TOKYO - Shares ended higher, though off highs, following an overnight advance on Wall Street and the dollar's strength against the yen. Brokers said the market was likely to rise gradually, raising the bottom of its trading range with a ceiling around 21,000.

The 225-share Nikkei average finished up 90.30 points, or 0.44%, at 20,812.74.

HONG KONG - Stocks gave up part of their sharp early gains by the close on talk of a spate of covered warrant issues, players said. The blue-chip Hang Seng index ended up 158.24 points or 1.41 percent at 11,359.70.

SYDNEY - The share market closed higher with strong US leads and better than expected December current account data, ensuring plenty of investor interest. The All Ordinaries Index closed 22.7 points higher at 2,208.5.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares took a pounding as profit-takers piled in and bullion summoned, the bears back to the market as sellers as it dipped temporarily back to around \$402 an ounce.

Dealers said the market had already shown signs of stabilizing, at lower levels and would be steady to marginally weaker if the Dow held its own and bullion, steadied above \$405 an ounce. The all-share index lost 60.4 points to 8,669.8, industrials fell 70.5 to 8,597.9 and gold index off 32.2 to 1,698.7.

Dow sets high on Fed rate cut

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average leaped into record territory yesterday as Wall Street celebrated the first cut this year in interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones index gained 13.75 points to end at a new high of 5,394.94, the third record high this week.

In the broader market, advancing issues swamped declines 15-8 on active volume of 474 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WALL STREET REPORT

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MARK ... STERLING

The old Magic is back

Johnson returns in style as Lakers down Warriors

INGLEWOOD (Reuter) - In one of the biggest comebacks in sports history, Earvin "Magic" Johnson returned to professional basketball Tuesday night, more than 1,500 days after he retired due to the AIDS virus.

Minutes into the first quarter, Johnson strode onto the court to a thunderous standing ovation and proceeded to dazzle fans and players alike on the way to the Los Angeles Lakers' 128-118 home victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Looking at times as if he had never been away, Johnson - a 10-time NBA all-star - showed a sell-out crowd of 17,505 that his repertoire of skills remains almost as sharp as ever. He finished with 19 points, 10 assists and 8 rebounds while playing only 27 minutes.

"A Legend Comes Back," read a hand-written sign held aloft from the stands of the Great Western Forum.

At a crowded post-game news conference, Johnson - who helped propel the National Basketball Association to global popularity - was breathless with excitement. "Oh man," he said. "Thank God for giving strength and courage. Praise him. Can't tell you how great I feel."

Coming off the bench, the bulked-up, 6-foot-9-inch Johnson alternated between power forward and point guard, the position he revolutionized in a 12-year career in which he led the Lakers to five NBA championships.

He looked rusty at times but still offered up glimpses of the Lakers' "Showtime" era in the 1980s with no-look passes and "baby skyhooks" that brought the crowd to its feet. Even on the sidelines, Johnson's presence appeared to electrify his teammates as he shouted tips from bench.

Johnson admitted he felt "scared and nervous" when he first entered the game - "like a 36-year-old rookie" - but said he soon gained confidence and settled down.

It was Johnson's first appearance in a regular-season NBA game since before November 7, 1991, when he quit the game after announcing that he had tested positive for HIV, the precursor to AIDS.

Johnson flinched with the idea of a comeback several times, and on Monday, saying "it's ooo or never," he finally made it official. He signed a \$2.5 million contract to play the remainder of the season for the Lakers.

Johnson's return makes him the first athlete playing professional sports to have openly admitted to



LIVING LEGEND - Magic Johnson made sports history when he returned to the NBA. (Reuter)

being infected with the HIV virus - "basketball's most valuable outpatient," as *Los Angeles Times* columnist Mike Downey put it.

Two seasons ago, another Johnson comeback bid ended abruptly after several players expressed fears about competing against someone with HIV in the rough-and-tumble - and sometimes bloody - action of the NBA.

But this time, Johnson - who has shown no symptoms of having developed full-blown AIDS - believes his peers are educated enough to realize that the risk of

contracting HIV in a basketball game are infinitesimal. Experts say the disease is transmitted almost exclusively by sexual contact or blood transfusion.

A number of NBA stars have welcomed him back, and Johnson's first opponent, the Warriors, showed no hesitation about going head-to-head against him.

"The NBA players are smart enough to know that you get the virus from unprotected sex, and we're not going to have unprotected sex on the basketball court," Warriors center Rooy Seikaly said. The game against the Warriors

is considered only a warmup for a Johnson-Jordan showdown at the Forum on Friday night when the Lakers go up against Michael Jordan and the Bulls.

His contract is for this season - Johnson said he would decide on his future after the playoffs.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
Orlando 104, Boston 99
Phoenix 114, Miami 99
Indiana 107, Atlanta 90
Chicago 98, Houston 87
Denver 88, Minnesota 86
Dallas 105, L.A. Clippers 101
Seattle 97, New Jersey 88
L.A. Lakers 128, Golden State 118
Sacramento 102, Toronto 75

Maccabi hosts Bologna in do-or-die battle

BRIAN FREEMAN

WHAT looked a key matchup between two championship-caliber clubs in the preseason has turned into a battle between two struggling teams fighting for the last quarter-final spot.

The game tonight at Yad Eliahu between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Buckler Bologna (both 5-5) in the European Club Championships final pool will be a battle for survival, since the loser will be effectively - even if not mathematically - eliminated from advancing.

Bologna's European season has gone downhill since boosting its record to 3-2 in December by trouncing visiting Maccabi 95-77, the team's first game without injured freighter Orlando Woolridge.

But Bologna has reason for optimism, in addition to the fact that it won again in league play on Sunday to boost its first-place record in Italy to 16-3.

Woolridge returned from his injury for his first full European game with a 21-point, 6-rebound performance in a 97-81 home victory over Benfica Lisbon last week, halting a skid in which Bologna lost four of five contests.

As Maccabi unfortunately discovered in its first encounter, Bologna has other weapons at its disposal besides Woolridge.

The other foreign star, Croatian Arjan Komazec, is the team's most complete player.

He scored 32 points against Maccabi on 10-14 shooting from the field (including 4-7 from three-point range) and was 8-9 from the free-throw line. He also pulled down eight rebounds and had three assists.

For the championships, Komazec is averaging 24.6 points and 5.1 rebounds. He is hitting 40 percent (16-40) from behind the three-point arc and 88% (73-83) from the free-throw line.

Also inflicting damage to Maccabi was Bologna's fine core of domestic players - most of whom have been with the team as it advanced to the last four European quarter-finals, only to lose at that stage each time.

Four of them scored in double figures, and the team's depth helped Bologna outbreed

Maccabi 34-26, one of the key factors in the Italians' numerous fast breaks with which Maccabi was unable to cope.

Veteran 2.13-meter center Augusto Binelli is the club's leading rebounder with 7.3 a game, along with his 13.7 points.

Claudio Coldebella posts a reliable 14.5 points a contest and is deadly (54.2%) - if selective (13-24) - from three-point land.

Another scorer providing an outside threat is Paolo Moretti, averaging 11.8 points largely on his 41.7% (15-36) accuracy from behind the arc.

Maccabi, for its part, will try to re-establish its supremacy at Yad Eliahu, after the team's 10-game home European winning streak was stopped by Real Madrid three weeks ago.

However, even in victory, Maccabi has not exactly dominated at home - needing last-second fortune against both Pau-Orthez and Cibona Zagreb and a rally from an 18-point deficit against last-place Benfica Lisbon.

But with their backs against the wall, it's the last chance for Maccabi to make a stand in European play, or the team's season will be reduced to trying for the league title and State Cup.

Maccabi's all-time record against Bologna is 5-9, including five losses in as many meetings in the 1990s.

Bologna has won its last two games at Yad Eliahu, the last encounter coming during the 1992/93 season.

Tonight's game is scheduled to be shown live on Channel 1 starting at 8:45 pm.

European Club Championships

Group A			Group B		
W	L	Pts.	W	L	Pts.
1. CSKA Moscow	8	3	19		
2. Barcelona	7	4	18		
3. Olympiacos	6	5	17		
4. Uster Istanbul	5	6	16		
5. Andes	4	7	15		
6. Maccabi Tel Aviv	3	8	14		
7. Bayer Leverkusen	2	9	13		
8. Iraklis Salonika	1	10	12		

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Tuesday's results: Detroit 4, Tampa 2; N.Y. Islanders 5, Buffalo 4 (OT); Calgary 3, Edmonton 2 (OT); New Jersey 3, Vancouver 2 (OT); San Jose 8, Hartford 2.
PREMIER LEAGUE - Yesterday's results: Aston Villa 8, Liverpool 2; Nottingham Forest 2, Leeds 1; Southampton 1, Manchester City 1; West Ham 3, Coventry 2.

UEFA to examine 'Super League'

LONDON (AP) - Plans for a Super League of European soccer are set to be examined next week when UEFA has a rare face-to-face meeting with Europe's top 36 clubs.

The idea has the support of some of Europe's powerhouses like AC Milan, FC Barcelona and Manchester United, which have threatened to break away and form their own league if they don't like UEFA's plans for the future of the game.

UEFA, the body that runs European soccer, invited three teams from each of Europe's top 12 soccer countries to the February 7 meeting in Geneva, mainly to discuss the controversial Bosman ruling handed down in December by the European Court of Justice.

Among other things, the ruling allows European clubs to play an unlimited number of foreign players. While the big clubs welcome that, UEFA permits only three foreigners, a rule the organization has pledged to stick with until the season end.

The European Commission has threatened UEFA with legal action if it doesn't immediately scrap the three-foreigner rule.

The turmoil has put UEFA on the defensive, and has strengthened the hands of many top clubs which have criticized the European soccer body for its handling of the Bosman decision.

Support from television companies for a Super League might allow the top clubs to break away, reducing the importance of UEFA's three annual cups - the UEFA Cup, the Cup Winners Cup and European Champions Cup.

It's unclear what shape a Super League might take. In the long-run, it could become a separate league.

In the short-run, it could mean the expansion of the European Champions Cup competition with top clubs gaining automatic berths regardless of their league finish.

GUESS WHICH?

Kentucky had an ABA team from 1967-76. Which name was the team called by?

Answers to yesterday's "Guess Who": Seattle's Harold Reynolds, who led the league with 60 stolen bases in 1987, broke Ricky Henderson's streak.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Bruck sets national record
Yosv Bruck set a national record yesterday when he clocked 22.60 seconds in a 50-meter freestyle race at the World Cup swimming meeting in Malmo, Sweden.

Also in Malmo, Jani Stevinsen broke a world short course record Tuesday for the second time in 10 days. The 21-year-old Finn clocked 53.10 seconds for the 100 meters medley, shaving more than half a second off his previous record of 53.78 set in November 1992. Reuter

Klein joins Hapoel Eilat
Hapoel Eilat named Ralph Klein its new head coach yesterday to replace Efi Birnbaum, who resigned on Monday. Klein started the season with Maccabi Tel Aviv, but was let go in January. Itm

Muster to replace Agassi as No. 1
Austrian Thomas Muster will replace Andre Agassi as world No. 1 when the ATP rankings are published on February 12.

Agassi, who replaced Pete Sampras at the top of the Australian Open last week, finds himself deprived of his position because of a schedule change.

The San Jose tournament is being held a week later this year because of the first round of the Davis Cup and next week Agassi will lose the 206 points he gained for winning in San Jose in 1995.

Muster, who won 12 tournaments in 1995 including the French Open, will then have 4,474 points to Agassi's 4,379, enough to elevate him to world No. 1 for the first time in his career. Reuter

Santiago signs with Phillies
Benito Santiago, who hit .286 last season and was the top fielding National League catcher, signed with the Philadelphia Phillies Tuesday, in effect ending the catching career of sore-kneed veteran Darren Daulton.

MDA accuses TV of inciting Ethiopians

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom yesterday accused an Israeli TV team of "inciting and organizing" Ethiopian immigrants to demonstrate at a blood-collection site at Bar-Ilan University. The protest, which included "verbal violence" and the waving of placards, caused potential donors to leave without giving blood and MDA blood-collectors to return empty-handed.

MDA management did not disclose which TV channel had sent the team, as an official report and complaint will be released today. However, Moshe Dayan, the spokesman for the MDA workers' union, said the team represented Channel 2.

Union chief Eli Ben-Khassous denounced the "deterioration" in the Ethiopian blood affair and the "threats and actions" taken against MDA blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David, who a few years ago approved his predecessor's decision in destroy most blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants because of the relatively high risk of HIV infection in the community.

"Interfering with the work of MDA staffers and volunteers, which occurred at Bar-Ilan, harms the vital functioning of

MDA. A decline in blood donations will bring about a reduction in the supply of blood and blood products and postponements of operations," Ben-Khassous said. "The general public, including Ethiopian immigrants and their inciters, should think of the hundreds of Ethiopian immigrants who needed and received first aid from MDA's trained staff and the hundreds who needed blood transfusions during operations and after births."

The union chief called on the immigrant community, public officials, and politicians to "help lower the level of physical and verbal violence to which the sad affair has fallen."

MDA management spokesman Dan Arnan said it was not known if the demonstrators were Bar-Ilan students or had come from outside. He said "10 to several dozen protesters" were there. A similar demonstration was held a few days ago at MDA's national blood center at Tel Hashomer.

A *Yediot Aharanot* poll released yesterday found that 40 percent of those queried supported MDA's policy of not using the blood of Ethiopian immigrants for transfusions, with 38 percent opposed.



Leaders of the Ethiopian community arrive at Beit Hanassi yesterday for a meeting with President Ezer Weizman to discuss their grievances. 'Especially after what has happened, we must treat the Ethiopian community as we have in the past - with love and understanding,' Weizman told the delegation. (Isaac Harari)

Book money for Ethiopian children not reaching schools in time

ELIE KAUNFER

MANY Ethiopian immigrant pupils lack school supplies - including books - because government money set aside to pay for them reaches the schools months after the school year begins.

"There are pupils who don't have books," said Pinhas Biton, principal of the Bar-Ilan elementary school in Beersheba. "They feel different from the other pupils."

Officials at a school in Hadera reported that instead of waiting for the government money to come, they bought the pupils books, but this prevented them from buying televisions, comput-

ers, tape recorders and books for the school library.

About 15,000 Ethiopian pupils are each supposed to receive NIS 500 from the Absorption Ministry to pay for books, school trips, and cultural events.

The money, which has been allocated since 1993, is divided into thirds and sent in installments to municipalities, which in turn distribute it to the schools.

But school officials say it is unreasonable for the Absorption Ministry to divide the money into thirds and send it after the school

year has started.

"If there is no money in the beginning of the year, we can't buy them the books," said one principal in Hadera. "We struggle with what we have. It is very hard."

Officials at the Absorption Ministry and in the various municipalities blame each other for not sending the money to the schools fast enough.

Addisu Messala, organizer of Sunday's protest at the Prime Minister's Office, said the gov-

ernment committee set up to investigate Ethiopian grievances will look into this issue.

In addition, Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman said his office will oversee the money distribution next year.

But some remain skeptical. "Why is he waiting until next year?" asks Aharon Cohen, head of the parents association in Hadera.

"Why doesn't he do it today? The law says the students should have those books today."

An in-depth report on this issue appears in tomorrow's *Magazine*.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 8-15
Tel Aviv 10-18
Haifa 14-19
Beersheba 10-21
Dead Sea 12-19
Golan 9-14
Tiberias 12-22
Akko 10-18
Samaria 9-18

Forecast: Partly cloudy. Lower temperatures. Rain in the north towards evening.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Alexandria	64	74	clear
Berlin	41	51	clear
Buenos Aires	61	71	clear
Chicago	38	48	clear
Copenhagen	42	52	clear
Helsinki	35	45	cloudy
Hong Kong	68	78	cloudy
London	48	58	clear
Los Angeles	58	68	clear
Madrid	45	55	clear
Moscow	32	42	clear
New York	42	52	clear
Paris	45	55	clear
Rome	48	58	clear
Stockholm	35	45	clear
Sydney	65	75	clear
Tokyo	55	65	clear
Toronto	35	45	cloudy
Zurich	45	55	clear

Police: Organized crime operating here in 10 groups

RAINE MARCUS

THERE are about 10 organized crime groups in the country, but "organized crime" has not penetrated the government or legal institutions, National Investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Levy said yesterday.

"Groups of criminals, working in organized hierarchies, including managers, accountants, and 'soldiers,' mostly from the CIS, are operating here, but luckily no such group has infiltrated the government, or corrupted district attorneys or judges, as has been done in the US and Italy," Levy told the annual conference of the National Crime Squad in Ramatana.

"However the transition from groups of organized criminals to organized crime in the classic sense is short, and we must stop the process now," he warned.

Around six months ago a unit dealing in international crime was formed by the National Crimes Squad and according to its chief, Dep.-Cmdr. Yoram Rudman, it has already solved several cases, including the murder of a diamond dealer in France and the illegal sale of diamonds stolen in

England. However, said Rudman, the squad, which over the past year has investigated "such sensitive cases" as the media wiretapping case, Histadrut fraud, Zo Artzeu and other right-wing organizations, and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin needs "fresh blood," to add to its 100 detectives.

Referring to the recent investigations of rabbis who were suspected of authorizing a *din rodef* against Rabin, Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz said the rabbis had to be interrogated if only to clear their names.

"We have recommended they not be indicted," he said. "Their files are at Attorney-General Michael Ben Yair's office."

White collar crimes, often involving well known personalities, have also increased, and methods have become more sophisticated, said Levy. "In the age of high technology it only takes a computer and a fax to fraudulently transfer millions of dollars from one country to another," he said. "The victim may realize it after the crime has been committed."

Court to determine whether evidence against Haggai Amir should be kept classified

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court will hold a special closed-door session in which Haggai Amir's lawyer will explain his line of defense, before ruling on Amir's request to declassify some of the evidence against him.

Amir's lawyer, Moshe Merz, has asked the court to declassify the contents of 11 pieces of evidence gathered by the General Security Service. He is particularly interested in anything indicating that the GSS was told by its agent, Avishai Raviv, of Yigal Amir's intent to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It could be that the more the GSS is gullible [of negligence in the murder], the more innocent my client is," Merz explained after a hearing yesterday.

The state argued at the hearing that it would endanger state security to reveal the contents of these

pieces of evidence, even though Merz was willing not to see any details relating to the methods by which they were obtained or the identities of GSS agents. In any case, the state argued, the GSS's guilt or innocence is irrelevant to Haggai Amir's case.

Justice Zvi Tal then asked Merz to explain his line of defense, so that he could determine whether or not the evidence is relevant. However, Merz said the defense's approach was not yet fully formulated.

Tal therefore agreed to hold a special hearing on the subject on February 16, at which the state will not be present, so that the defense's plans will not be prematurely disclosed. Tal will then examine the evidence in question and decide whether or not the defense really needs it to be declassified.

Yehezkel stripped of immunity

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset House Committee yesterday lifted the immunity of Avi Yehezkel (Labor) so he can face corruption charges related to the Histadrut affair. Yehezkel agreed to having his immunity lifted, saying it would allow him to clear his name in court, but wanted to postpone the process until after party primaries in March.

"My voters don't necessarily understand that there is a huge difference between having your immunity lifted and being con-

victed," Yehezkel said. Most of the committee members appeared to agree with him, but Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said it would set a dangerous precedent by mixing judicial and political considerations.

"Justice will not be harmed if an indictment, which waited two years, waits another two months," said Molelet leader Rehavim Ze'evi.

Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) concurred, noting, "It's the first time I've ever agreed with [Ze'evi]."

Committee Chairman Elic Goldschmidt (Labor), however, sided with Ben-Yair. "We cannot postpone the lifting of his immunity. It could lead to the exploitation of the powers granted us."

Yehezkel, clearly upset by the whole affair, claimed that he is being forced to take the blame for far bigger fish in the Histadrut. The indictment is expected to be filed today.

Several prosecution witnesses appeared yesterday in the trial of Rabbi Natan Ophir, charged with four offenses that allegedly occurred during The Event at Netanyahu's Wingate Institute during Succot.

An angry crowd heckled late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and police say Ophir was among them.

Ophir, 42, of Ma'alch Adunim, is charged with attacking a civil servant, assaulting a police officer, obstructing a civil servant in the course of his duty, and breach of peace in a public place.

His lawyers, Haim Misgav and Gabi Dannon, say their client found himself in the middle of an angry mob.

Two of Rabin's former bodyguards testified, and one said under cross-examination that in a struggle, his thumb slipped into Ophir's mouth.

Police had claimed that Ophir hit the bodyguard's finger. While cross-examining another witness, Chief Inspector Danny Harbi, who arrested Ophir, Misgav accused him of wrongful arrest.

"I was told by one of the bodyguards to put him in the van," said Harbi.

Rabin bodyguards testify about rabbi's actions at Event

RAINE MARCUS

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman jailed for theft
A Lod woman who confessed to stealing about NIS 500,000 while working as a cashier for the Airports Authority was sentenced to three-and-a-half years' imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. Ruth Anselm, 36, was convicted of stealing the money from 1987 to 1993, and forging documents to cover for the thefts. She apparently gave all the money to finance her husband's drug addiction. *lit*

The 'Brain' released from prison
Yitzhak Drori, nicknamed "the Brain" for his role in the robbery of bank safe deposit boxes in Jerusalem, was released from prison yesterday after serving nine years of his 12-year sentence. The Prisons Service parole board recommended an early release for good behavior, and the request was approved by the Beersheba District Court. Drori, 52, of Jerusalem, and four others were convicted of robbing an estimated \$10 million from safety deposit boxes at a Bank Hapoalim branch in the city. *lit*

OCCUPATION: NAZI-HUNTER

The Continuing Search for Perpetrators of the Holocaust
The renewed interest in the efforts to prosecute the perpetrators of the Holocaust was sparked by revelations that Allied countries such as USA, UK, Canada and Australia had afforded a postwar haven to thousands of Nazi collaborators. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israeli Office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and coordinator of the Center's research on Nazi war criminals, discusses in his book how Nazi-hunting was revived in the seventies, how it was carried out in the eighties and whether it can continue in the nineties. Foreword by Rabbi Marvin Hier. Published by KTAV, Hardcover, 374 pp. JP Price NIS 139 Incl. VAT, p.&h. in Israel

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Man rescued from apartment fire
Yisrael Hashai, 45, was rescued from his burning seventh-floor apartment in Tel Aviv yesterday, but suffered serious injuries from smoke inhalation.
A fireman found him unconscious in the apartment, which apparently caught fire when a pot was left unattended on the stove. He was brought to Ichilov Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition. *lit*

TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

This book marks the first time that Rav Tzvi Yehuda Hacohen Kook's lectures have been translated into English. His teachings on Torah, *Emanah*, *Ahavah*, *Eretz Yisrael*, *Zionism*, the Holocaust, *Ga'ula*, and the *Mashiach*, bring the encompassing Torah of *Eretz Yisrael* into unparalleled light. The book's commentary brings the reader into the *Beit Midrash* of Rabbi Kook, presenting an intimate understanding of his vision and the unique era of redemption which Rabbi Kook inspired the nation to see. Translated by Zvi Fishman. Hardcover, 387 pp. JP Price NIS 55.00 Inc. VAT, packing and postage

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